the PHANTOM®

the complete newspaper dailies: Volume Seven 1946-1947

lee falk, wilson mccoy, and ray moore

Hp

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introduction by daniel herman

Hermes Press

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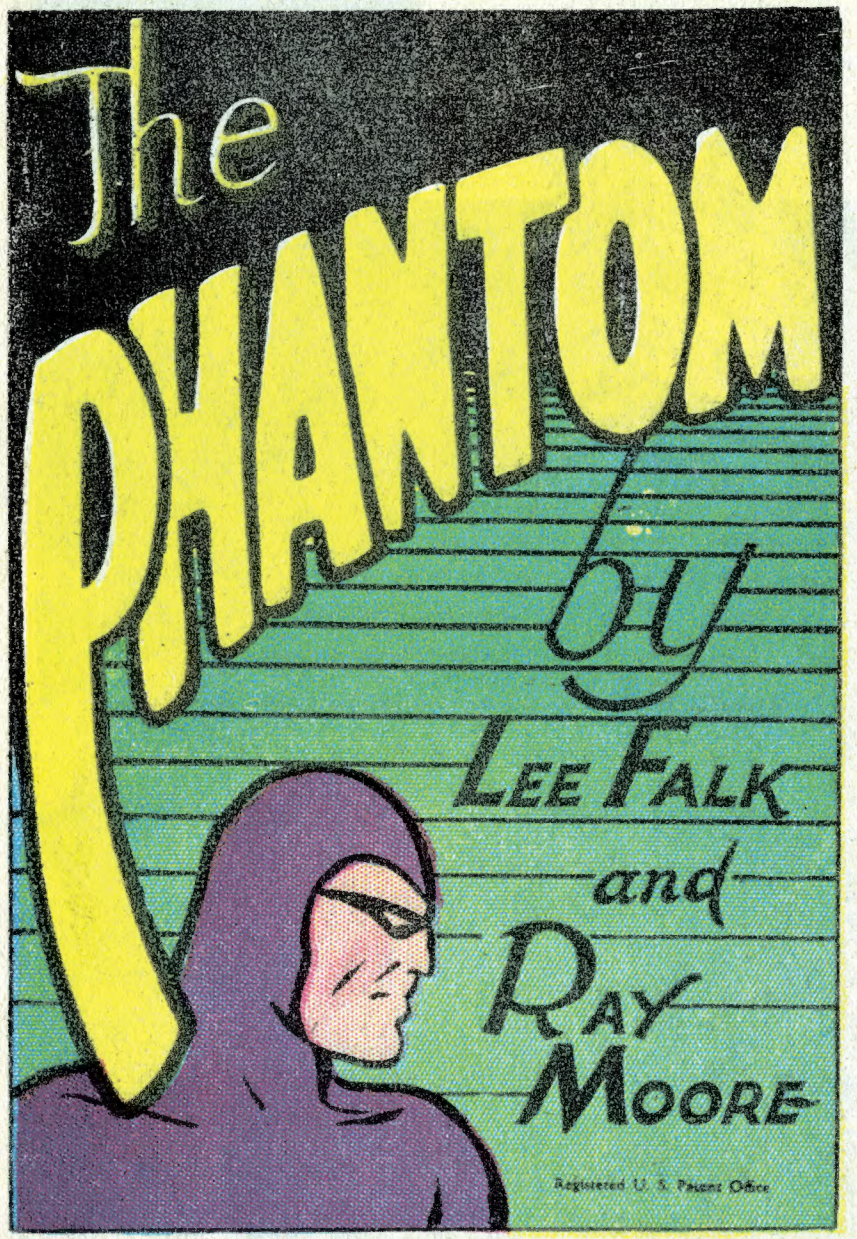
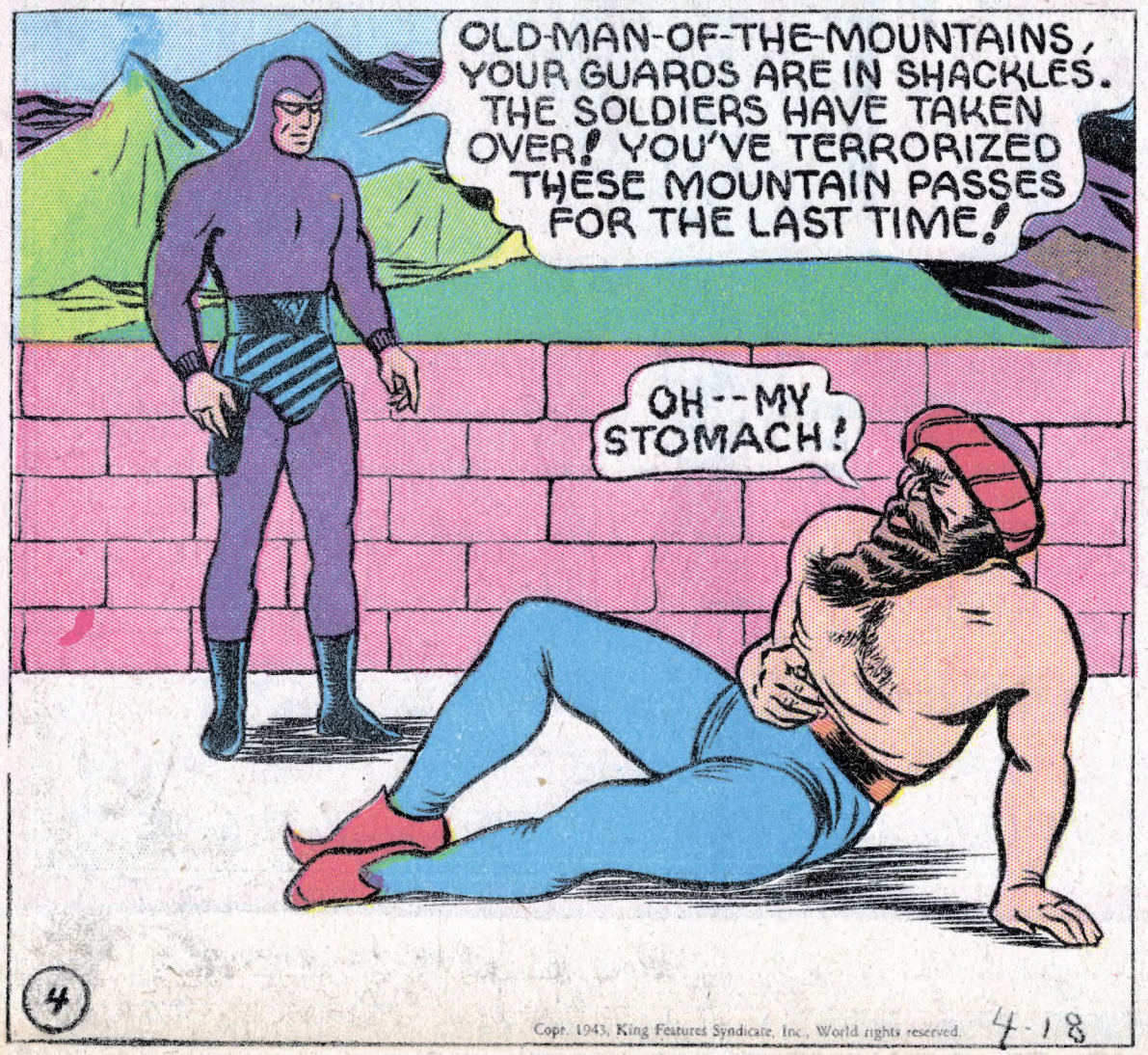
Printed in China


The
PHANTOM
by
LEE FALK
and
RAY MOORE
Registered U. S. Patent Office

I THOUGHT WE SETTLED THIS!
UMPH!
1
AS THE OLD MAN SWINGS, THE PHANTOM CATCHES HIS ARM IN A GRIP OF IRON, AND DELIVERS A TERRIFIC SOLAR PLEXUS THAT CAN BE HEARD ALL OVER THE CASTLE!


OLD-MAN-OF-THE-MOUNTAINS, YOUR GUARDS ARE IN SHACKLES. THE SOLDIERS HAVE TAKEN OVER! YOU'VE TERRORIZED THESE MOUNTAIN PASSES FOR THE LAST TIME!
OH--MY STOMACH!
4
Copr. 1943, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved.
4-18

YOUR DAYS OF BANDITRY ARE OVER! AS SOON AS THE SOLDIERS CAN CONTACT THEIR BASE, YOU'LL BE TAKEN TO JUSTICE.
ARE YOU TAKING BOTH PIGEONS? COULDN'T YOU LEAVE ONE FOR ME?
5

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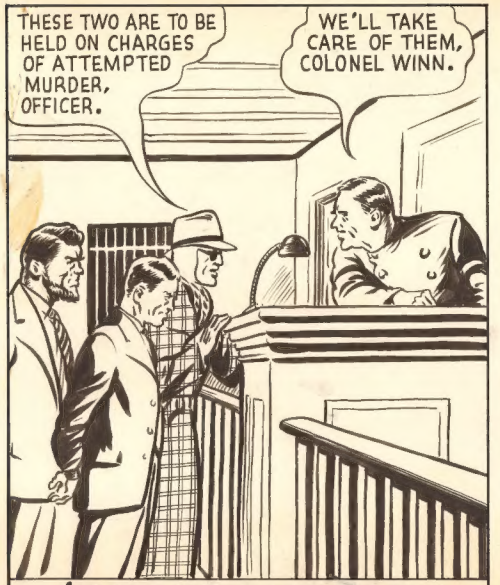


--AND FIRST DISPOSES OF THE TWO THUGS WHO ATTACKED HIM ON SHIPBOARD.

FIVE MINUTES AFTER THE PHANTOM HAS LEFT THE POLICE STATION, A TALL STRANGER ENTERS.

Copr. 1939, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved.

12-17

CONTINUED-

introduction

The Phantom Continues...

The Phantom dailies presented in this volume were created between 1946 and 1947, a rapid time of change for the audience reading them. Soldiers were returning from World War II and the economy was experiencing many changes. Popular movies ran the gamut from thoughtful films about home-coming veterans —*The Best Years of Our Lives*, to now classic film noir — *The Postman Always Rings Twice* and *Gilda*, to the Bing Crosby and Bob Hope comedy *Road to Utopia*. *The Phantom* didn't miss a beat presenting its usual mixture of mystery, suspense, and humor — all of which are on display in the four continuities presented in this volume.

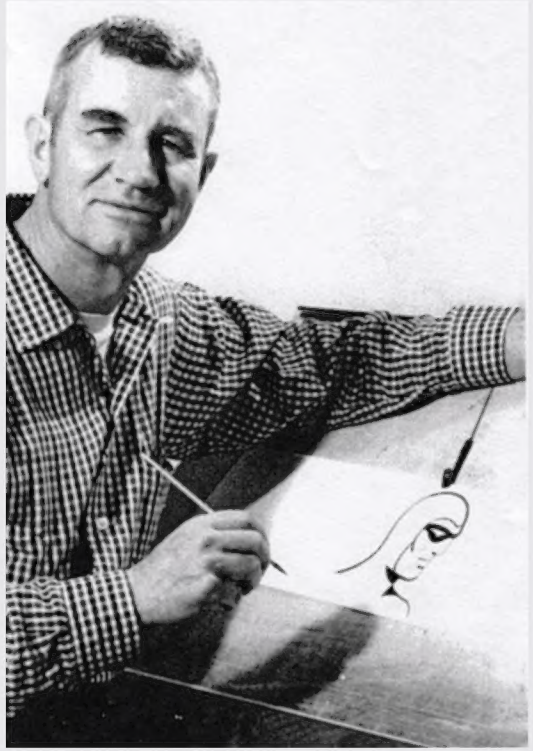
The strip, which had now been running for a decade, had become a fixture in the comic strip world and boasted a loyal readership not just in the U.S. but in Australia, New Zealand, India, and Scandinavia. Indeed, during the Second World War *The Phantom* was widely read in these locales. Today, *The Phantom* enjoys more popularity in non-stateside venues and is by far one of the most popular American characters outside the U.S. There has been much written on the subject but no definitive reason has ever been gleaned for the Ghost Who Walks' continuing strong popularity outside North America. One reason may be that The Phantom is one of the few masked heroes who lives outside the United States who regularly travels the world, rather than having his adventures centered in the good ole U.S.A. (comics fans may note other exceptions but can't contest that The Ghost Who Walks is, in the words of comics historian Maurice Horn, "The Granddaddy

Opposite page: Ray Moore original artwork for *The Phantom* Sunday from December 17, 1936, the second *Phantom* continuity, "The Precious Cargo of Colonel Winn."

of all costumed Superheroes..."). The four stories presented here, all written by Lee Falk, were drawn under the watchful eye of Wilson McCoy. The artwork for the first continuity, "Princess Valerie" was created under the hands of veteran Phantom artist Ray Moore and McCoy and would mark the last time Moore would ever work on the daily strip. Moore's work on the dailies and especially on the Sundays had helped define the look and feel of the strip. Moore created *The Phantom's* visual universe and set the direction for the feature. While he did work on several more Sunday continuities — he would turn in his last efforts on the Sunday story "The Haunted Castle," September 12, 1948 – February 13, 1949 — the artwork for the strip, for the next thirteen years, would be entirely created by McCoy.

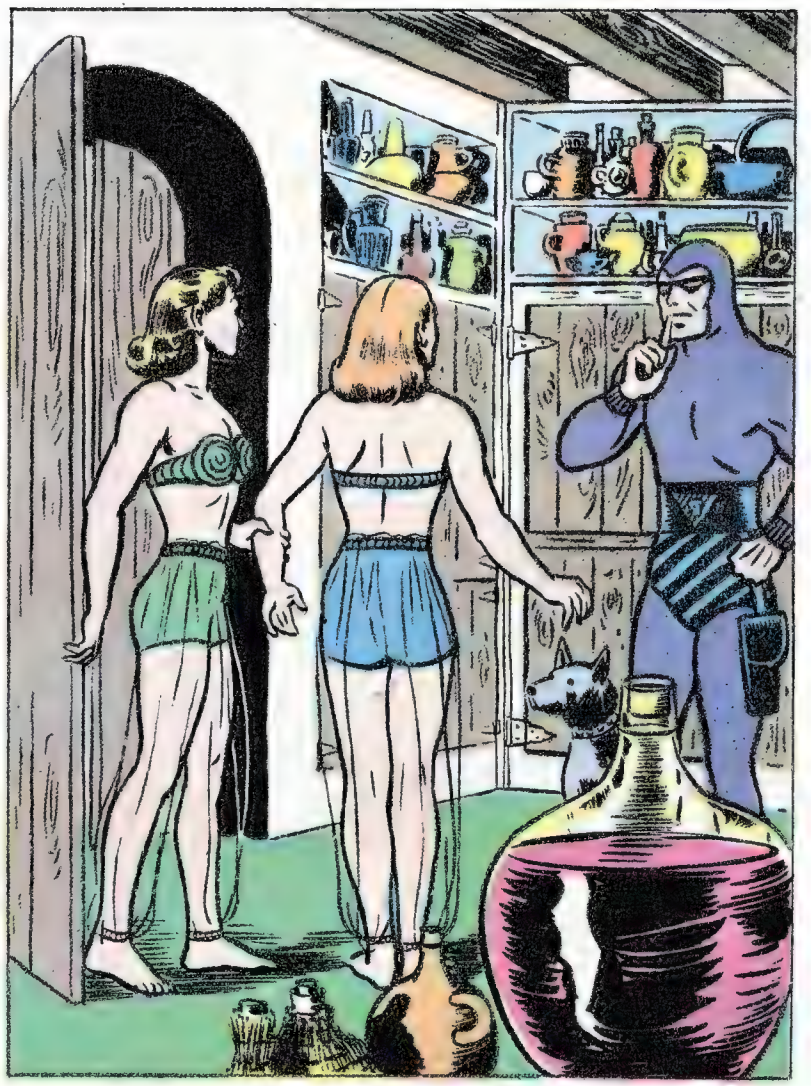
There has been very little offered by way of a clear explanation as to why Moore left the strip and what his relationship with McCoy was, but historian Spike Barkin explored that topic with Lee Falk (during an extensive interview conducted in 1983). Falk elaborated in answer to the question whether McCoy was Falk's assistant and explained:

> He was a friend of Ray Moore. An independent artist. He was a chief artist for outdoor advertising. Big sign boards. He did a lot of that. When Ray went into the Air Force Wilson took over for him. When Ray came back he couldn't do it anymore. He had



Opposite page: Photograph of Ray Moore. Above: Photograph of Wilson McCoy at this drafting board. Right: Wilson McCoy pin-up art.

OH, LANA, WHEN WILL THIS NIGHTMARE BE OVER?
NEVER, I'M AFRAID. IF ONLY THAT--THAT PHANTOM HAD LIVED--HE MIGHT HAVE GOTTEN US AWAY FROM HERE--



Opposite page: two panels from *The Phantom* Sunday from January 31, 1943. Above: Wilson McCoy original artwork from a panel from a daily from 1960.

this tri-facial neuralgia. Terrible thing. The only thing he could do to stop the pain was to drink. They didn't have any medicine for it then. All they could do was cut the nerve, which he said he wouldn't let them do, because he would become paralyzed on one side. It was a real mess. We kept him on the payroll for years. These guys were all older than I was. I started when I was 19, Davis (Phil Davis the artist on Mandrake) was 30, so was Moore. They were all older.

Whereas Moore's artwork was more atmospheric, McCoy's approach to the art was straight forward and direct with less shading and depth. McCoy helped further define the look of all the characters during his lengthy tenure — an approach that served *The Phantom* well. For many, McCoy became the artist identified by several generations of readers with the universe of The Ghost Who Walks. So, without further ado, let's get to the stories!

—Daniel Herman

The PHANTOM
By
LEE FALK
and
WILSON McCOY

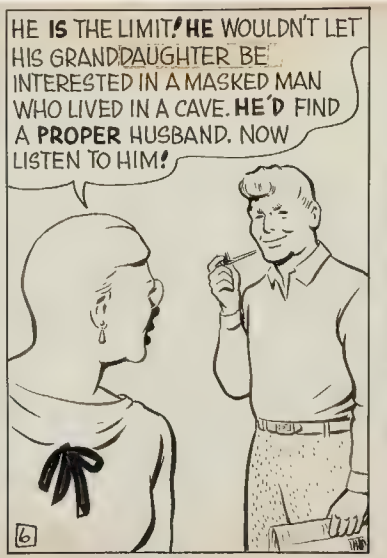
YOUR MOTHER TOLD ME YOU WERE GOING TO MARRY THAT MAN BARTON~
OH, DARLING, GRANDPA WAS TRYING TO FIND ME A HUSBAND. I WAS ONLY HUMORING HIM. YOU KNOW THERE'S ONLY ONE MAN FOR ME.
1

I FEEL BETTER NOW, DIANA. I'M ALREADY OVERDUE IN THE JUNGLE, BUT I'LL BE BACK SOON.
I'LL BE WAITING ALWAYS.
2

~AND HE FINISHED OFF THAT MONSTROUS GRIZZLY JUST LIKE THIS~THEN OVER THE CLIFF HE WENT WITH THE OTHER ONE~NEVER SAW ANYTHING LIKE IT~!
YES, HE HAS A WAY OF GETTING THINGS DONE.
3

HAS HE! THE WAY HE HANDLED THOSE TWO ARMED THUGS WITH HIS BARE HANDS! SUCH NERVE~SUCH SPEED~
HMM~A NEW MEMBER OF THE FAN CLUB.
PAPA ~~ER~ MR. BARTON IS WAITING TO SEE YOU.
WILSON McCOY 2-12
4
1936 KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, INC. WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED

ER~MR. BARTON, THE ER~POSITION I HAD IN MIND FOR YOU IS FILLED. MY OFFICE WILL FIND YOU SOMETHING ELSE.
THANK YOU, MR. PALMER.
HE NEVER TOLD ME WHAT THE POSITION WAS.
5


HE IS THE LIMIT! HE WOULDN'T LET HIS GRANDDAUGHTER BE INTERESTED IN A MASKED MAN WHO LIVED IN A CAVE. HE'D FIND A PROPER HUSBAND. NOW LISTEN TO HIM!
6

GRANDPA, WHAT DO YOU THINK OF MY 'MASKED MAN' NOW? THINK HE'S WORTH WAITING FOR?
IF YOU EVER LET GO OF HIM, I'LL CUT YOU OFF WITHOUT A DIME!
7
NEW ADVENTURE NEXT WEEK

focus

Reprinting *The Phantom*

As with Hermes Press' last volume of the complete *Phantom* dailies, due to the near impossibility of assembling a complete set of proofs we've been obliged to use various collections to assemble this book as well.

Hermes Press began printing *The Phantom* in 2010. From the beginning of this project we've searched high and low to find source material to assemble this comprehensive reprint of The Ghost Who Walks. Through the help of collectors Pete Klaus and the late Ed Rhoades, we were put in touch with "The Friends of the Phantom," an international group of dedicated "Phans" who collect and celebrate this great character, many of whom have been instrumental in helping supply us with material for these volumes. Ivan Pedersen, a collector from Norway, has also been an important consultant on this project.

The owners of the strip, King Features, have an archive of material but it's not suitable for reproduction. The books of press proofs that they possessed are now nothing but a memory. They have much of the material micro-filmed but, again, due to over-use and the ravages of time, it's not useful for the purposes of reproducing a book.

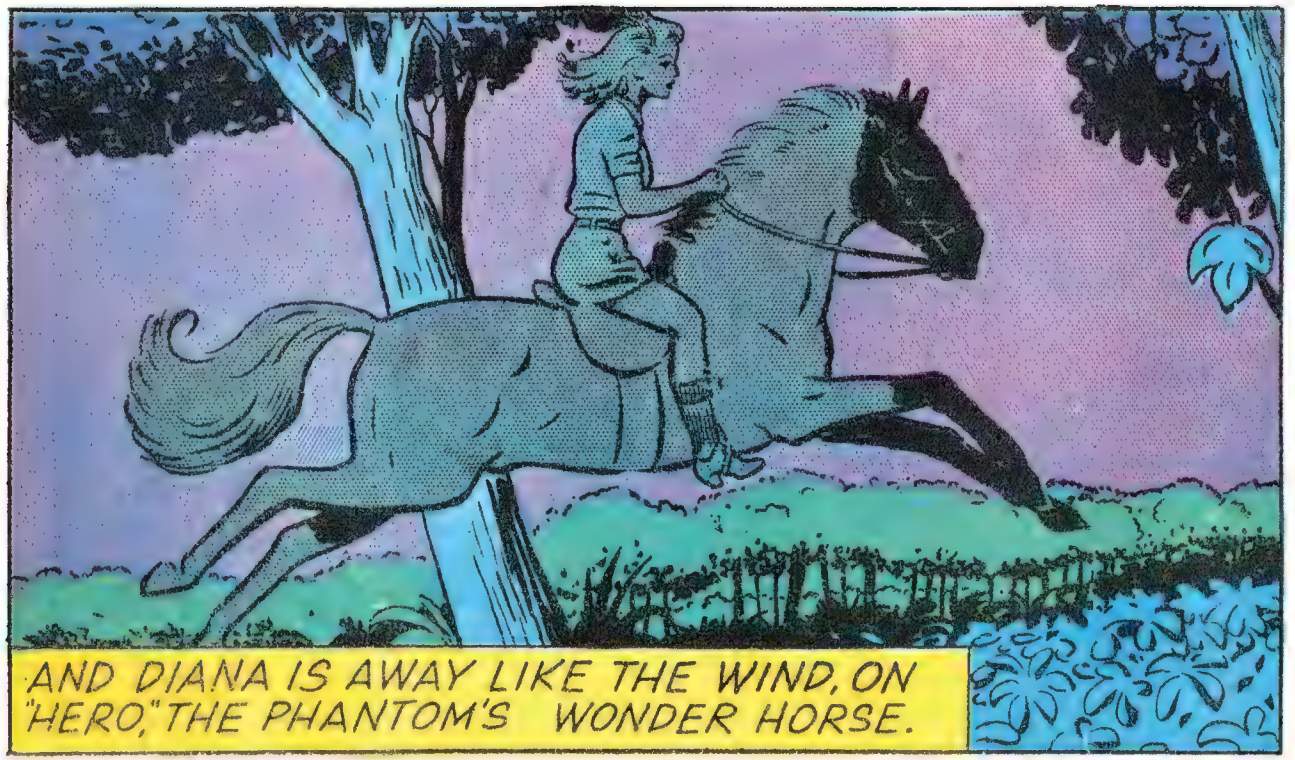
Back in the late 1990s King Features gave two sets of their proofs to two institutions: Michigan State University (MSU) and Ohio State University. Ohio State, to our knowledge, has never catalogued these materials and restricts access to them. Michigan State's Special Collections, through the auspices of Randy Scott has catalogued its holdings and, has made them available to

Opposite page: Wilson McCoy original artwork for *The Phantom* Sunday from February 12, 1956. Note that McCoy used "actors" to set up his compositions which is demonstrated on the next page.

Hermes Press for use in this series of reprints. It's safe to say that without Scott's help and dedication and the stalwart assistance we've received from everyone at MSU, this series of books just wouldn't be possible. The problem is that there are "gaps" in the proofs that MSU has.

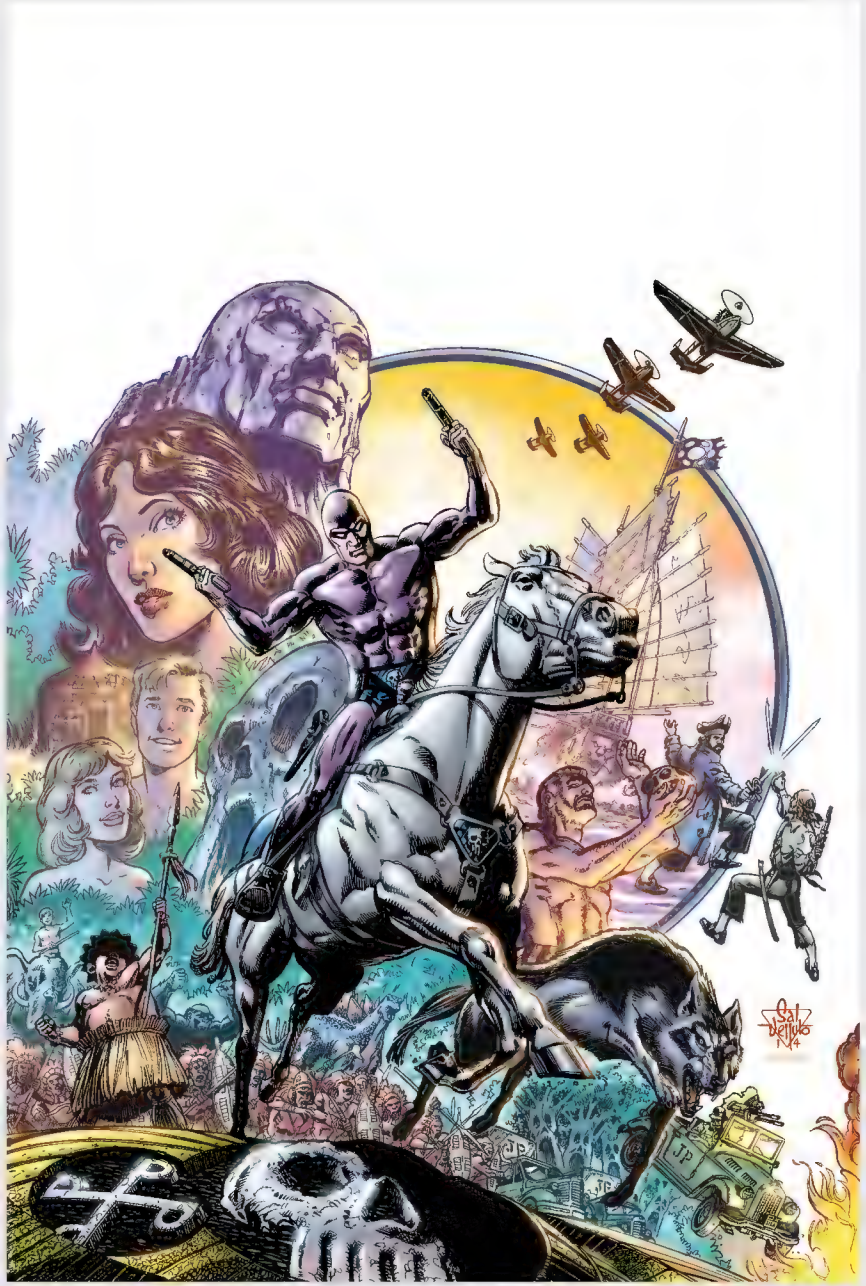
For instance MSU does not have any of the first or second continuities of the strip, "The Singh Brotherhood" and "The Sky Band." MSU's holdings don't kick in until part way through "The Diamond Hunters." From there on it's smooth sailing, kind of. There are bits and pieces missing until "The Phantom Goes to War" ("The Inexorables"), then the material jumps a bit, and then, there is a huge gap spanning from late 1944 though 1946 that just isn't there. To complicate matters even further, around 1944 King Features began offering *The Phantom* daily strip to newspapers in two different configurations, one more vertical than the other. Due to wartime paper shortages newspapers wanted to save on space and cram more newspaper strips onto their "funnies" pages. The reduction in size allowed for this. For whatever reason

Left: Newspaper article illustrating how Wilson McCoy used his family to stage the action he would use in the creation of a *Phantom* strip. Opposite page: Two panels from *The Phantom* Sunday from August 5, 1945.


AND DIANA IS AWAY LIKE THE WIND, ON "HERO," THE PHANTOM'S WONDER HORSE.

OH, GHOST WHO WALKS, THE GREAT LADY HAS RIDDEN AWAY WITH HERO, AND LEFT THIS MESSAGE BEHIND.
W-WHAT?
COMES THE DAWN~~

COVERS - ILLUSTRATION QUALITY
PRINTS AT 69%
TRIM
COPY
NOLAN
TITLE PHANTOM (VARIANT)
1
MONTH
ARTIST GRAHAM NOLAN
CONTRASS COMICS

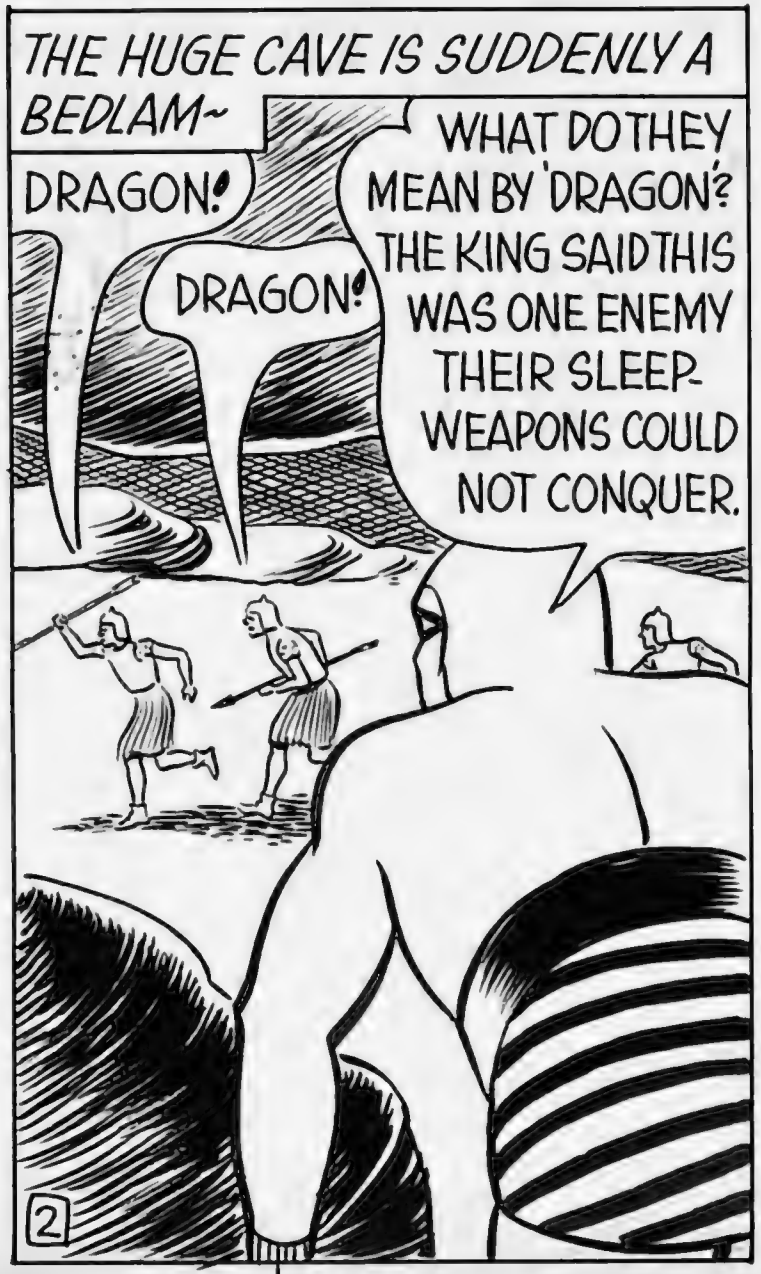


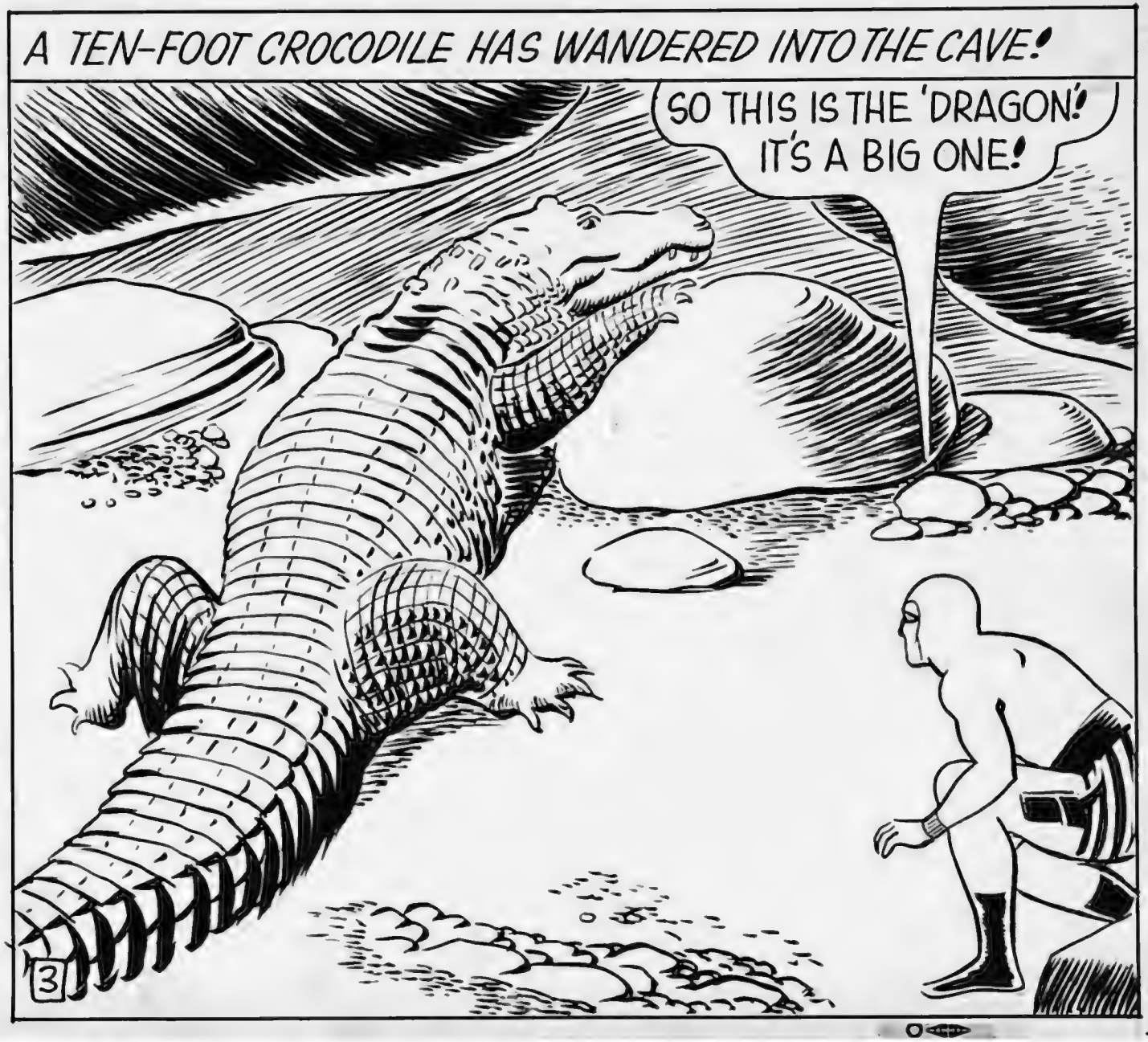
King Features only archived the truncated version of the daily strip which cuts off about a little over an inch from the bottom portion of the art.

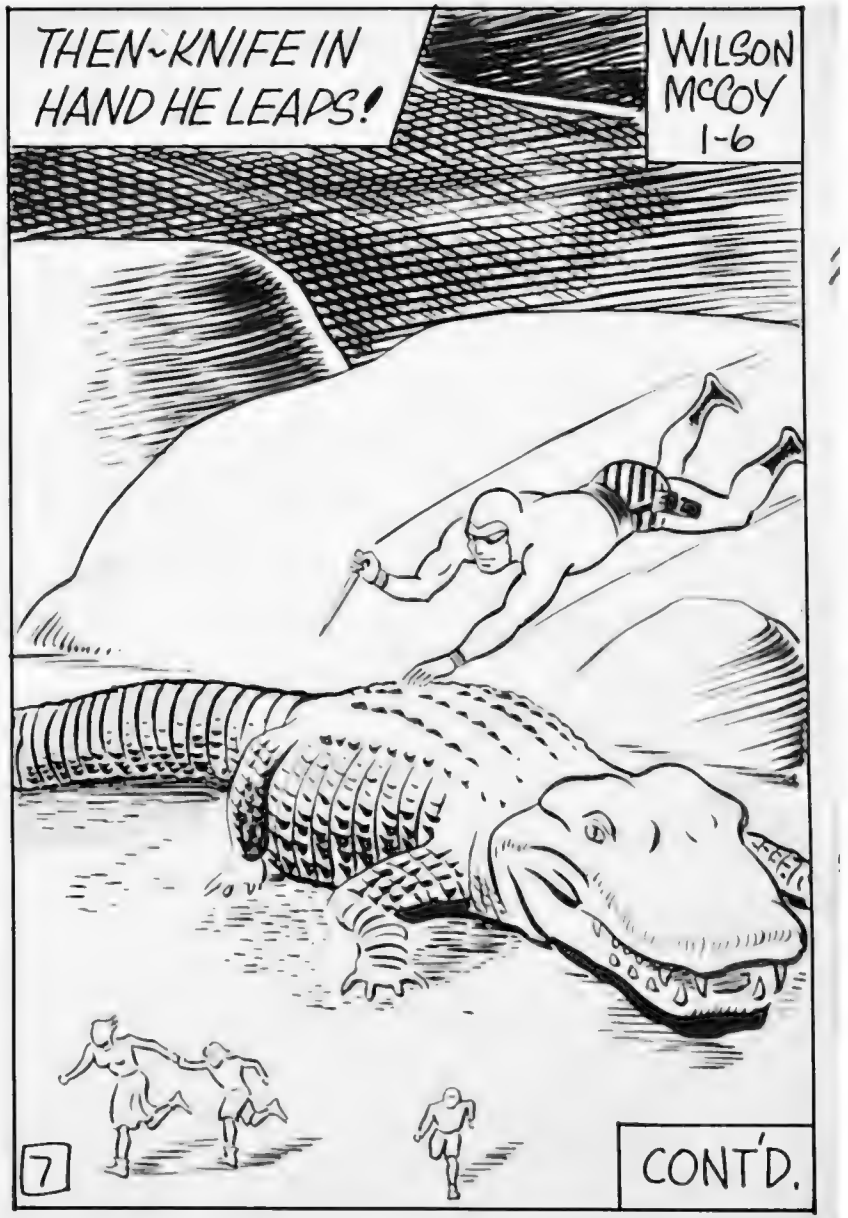
Now for the conundrum, which version should Hermes Press use in this series of reprints: the material that is accessible or the material that may exist but which we can't find? The question just posed answers itself. However, the "gap" from 1944 through 1946 presents a different issue. We have been able to collect all the strips from that period, but, we haven't been able to locate one source of full size strips or the truncated versions. So, dear readers, this volume uses the material that we were able find, some full size strips and some truncated.

Finally, a note on what proofs look like, as opposed to what strips look like printed in the newspaper. The syndicate proofs, just as the strips printed in this book, are printed on coated stock paper with highly saturated blacks. The strips printed in newspapers re-photographed the proofs and printed them in gray-tone on pulpy

Opposite page left: A contemporary interpretation of the classic Phantom, the "variant" cover to issue #1 of Hermes Press' new Phantom comic book with artwork by Graham Nolan and colors by Jesus Aburtov. Right: Promotional poster art also used as another variant cover for issue #1 with artwork by Sal Velluto with colors by Jesus Aburtov. The six part story arc which begins in this issue takes place in the late 1940s, a classic period for The Ghost Who Walks. Right: Panel from original Wilson McCoy art for The Phantom Sunday from January 6, 1957.


THE HUGE CAVE IS SUDDENLY A BEDLAM~
DRAGON!
DRAGON!
WHAT DO THEY MEAN BY 'DRAGON'? THE KING SAID THIS WAS ONE ENEMY THEIR SLEEP-WEAPONS COULD NOT CONQUER.
2


A TEN-FOOT CROCODILE HAS WANDERED INTO THE CAVE!
SO THIS IS THE 'DRAGON'! IT'S A BIG ONE!
3



newsprint paper. In creating the proofs, the original art for *The Phantom* was photographed using an overhead camera with an extremely bright light source, resulting in the strips appearing pure black and white. In this book and in our other reprints of various strips, Hermes Press is completely faithful to what the **proofs** of these great newspaper features looked like.

The good news is, as of December 1, 1947 we have a complete set of proofs running until 1994.

So, in reading these classic *Phantom* tales, you now have a little insight into the trials and tribulations that confront us in creating this series and which we routinely deal with, especially with the seventh volume of the strip.

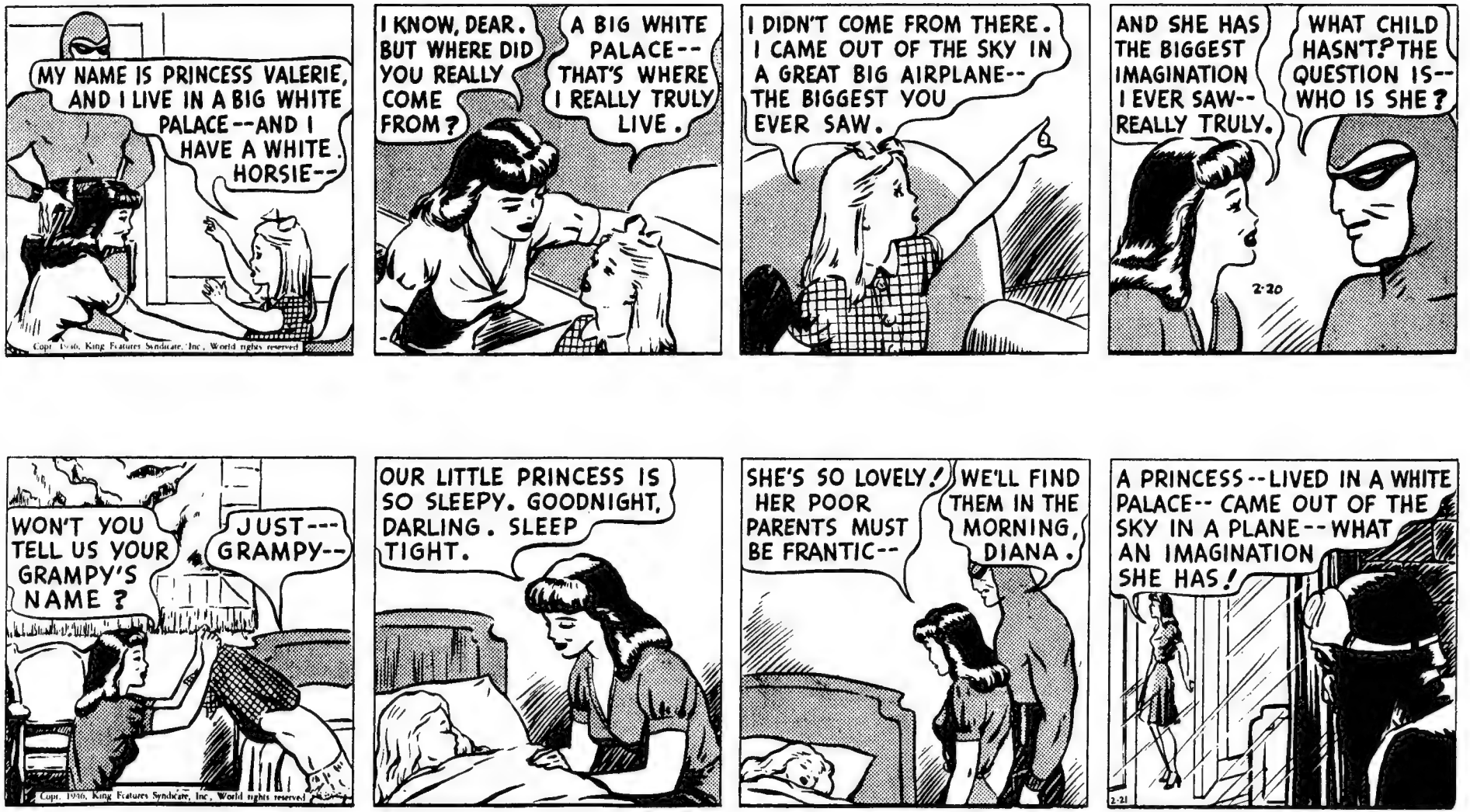
—Daniel Herman

Opposite page and above: Three panels from *The Phantom* Sunday, which takes place in a Lilliputian-esque story, from January 6, 1957.

Chapter One: Princess Valerie

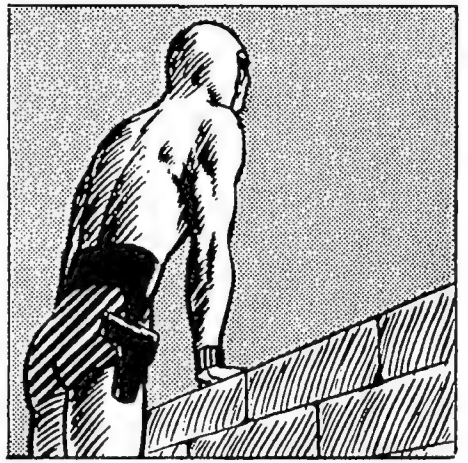
the PHANTOM®

BEGINNING: PRINCESS VALERIE
"DEVIL", SEE WHAT I SEE ?
Copr. 1946, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved
HELLO. WHERE ARE YOU GOING ?
I'M LOOKING FOR MY GRAMPY.
248
ISN'T IT PRETTY LATE FOR YOU TO BE OUT BY YOURSELF ?
I'M NOT AFRAID. I'M A BIG GIRL.
WHAT IS YOUR NAME, DARLING ?
PRINCESS VALERIE, AND I'M ALMOST SIX YEARS OLD.
Copr. 1946, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved
SHE MUST HAVE COME THIS WAY !
I'M NOT SLEEPY--REALLY ! BUT MY LITTLE FEET ARE SO TIRED. POOR LITTLE FEET--THEY JUST WALKED AND WALKED---
HMM--WE'D BETTER PUT YOU TO BED AT DIANA'S HOUSE--AND IN THE MORNING, WE'LL FIND OUT WHERE YOU BELONG, "PRINCESS."
249


MY NAME IS PRINCESS VALERIE, AND I LIVE IN A BIG WHITE PALACE--AND I HAVE A WHITE HORSIE--
Copr. 1936, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved
I KNOW, DEAR. BUT WHERE DID YOU REALLY COME FROM?
A BIG WHITE PALACE-- THAT'S WHERE I REALLY TRULY LIVE.
I DIDN'T COME FROM THERE. I CAME OUT OF THE SKY IN A GREAT BIG AIRPLANE-- THE BIGGEST YOU EVER SAW.
AND SHE HAS THE BIGGEST IMAGINATION I EVER SAW-- REALLY TRULY.
WHAT CHILD HASN'T? THE QUESTION IS-- WHO IS SHE?
2-20
WON'T YOU TELL US YOUR GRAMPY'S NAME?
JUST--- GRAMPY--
Copr. 1936, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved
OUR LITTLE PRINCESS IS SO SLEEPY. GOODNIGHT, DARLING. SLEEP TIGHT.
SHE'S SO LOVELY! HER POOR PARENTS MUST BE FRANTIC--
WE'LL FIND THEM IN THE MORNING, DIANA.
A PRINCESS--LIVED IN A WHITE PALACE-- CAME OUT OF THE SKY IN A PLANE--WHAT AN IMAGINATION SHE HAS!
2-21

WHAT WOULD A FIVE-YEAR-OLD CHILD BE DOING ALONE ON A COUNTRY ROAD AT MIDNIGHT ?
Copr. 1946 King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved
SHE WAS TOO TIRED TO GIVE US ANY HELP, BUT WE'LL FIND OUT IN THE MORNING. YOU'D BETTER GET SOME SLEEP, DIANA.
2-22
IT'S GETTING COLD. I'D BETTER GET ANOTHER BLANKET FOR HER.
Copr. 1946 King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved
SHE WAS HERE JUST A MINUTE AGO--- SHE'S GONE !
NEXT WEEK: THE MYSTERY OF VALERIE--
2-23

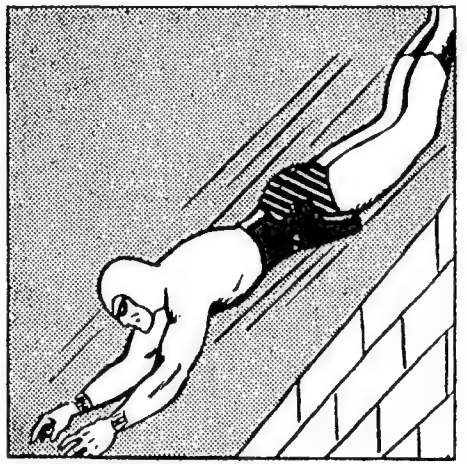
THERE'S A MAN --- RUNNING AWAY WITH VALERIE!
Copr. 1936, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved

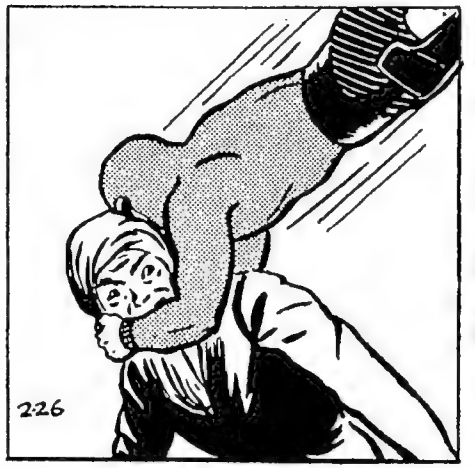


2-25

TAKING HER TO THAT PLANE! IS THIS A KIDNAPPING--- OR WHAT?

COME, CHILD, INTO THE PLANE --
DON'T STOP TO ARGUE WITH HER! THROW HER IN!
Copr. 1936, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved




2-26

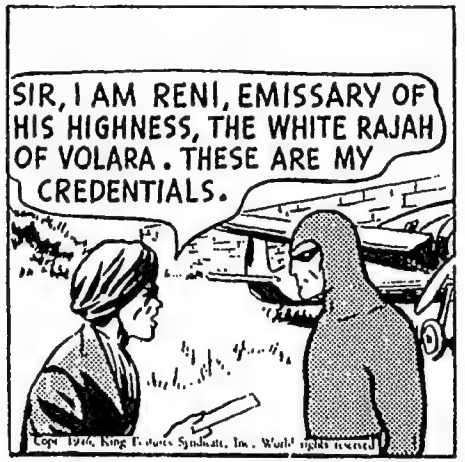
THIS'LL SETTLE YOU!

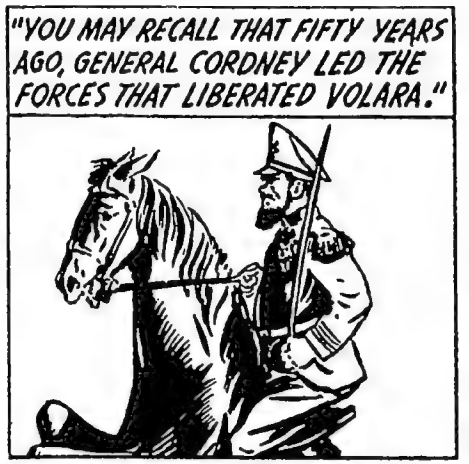
THE PHANTOM CAN PLAY AS ROUGH AS THE NEXT FELLOW--
Copr 1946 King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved

--EVEN ROUGHER!

THE GHOST WHO WALKS!
SO YOU KNOW WHO I AM.

SUPPOSE YOU TELL ME WHO THIS CHILD IS -- AND WHAT'S GOING ON HERE!
2-27


SIR, I AM RENI, EMISSARY OF HIS HIGHNESS, THE WHITE RAJAH OF VOLARA. THESE ARE MY CREDENTIALS.
Copr 1946, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved


"YOU MAY RECALL THAT FIFTY YEARS AGO, GENERAL CORDNEY LED THE FORCES THAT LIBERATED VOLARA."

"IN GRATITUDE, OUR PEOPLE PERSUADED HIM TO ACCEPT THE THRONE--AND BECOME THE WHITE RAJAH OF VOLARA."

WHAT'S THAT GOT TO DO WITH THIS CHILD?
SHE IS PRINCESS VALERIE--GRANDAUGHTER OF THE WHITE RAJAH!
2-28

A YEAR AGO, PRINCESS VALERIE CAME TO AMERICA FOR SCHOOLING. HER PARENTS, POOR CHILD, ARE NO MORE.

"NOW OUR RAJAH IS ILL--AND FEARS HE MAY DIE. PRINCESS VALERIE IS THE ONLY HEIR. I WAS SENT TO BRING HER HOME.

"WE LOST OUR WAY AND LANDED ON THIS FIELD. WHILE OUR BACKS WERE TURNED, THE PRINCESS WANDERED OFF. WE WERE FRANTIC."
3-1

WE THOUGHT YOU WERE TRYING TO KIDNAP HER!
SO YOU REALLY ARE A PRINCESS-- AND YOU REALLY DID COME FROM THE SKY IN A PLANE!

DAWN--AND PRINCESS VALERIE OF VOLARA WAVES FAREWELL TO HER NEW FRIENDS

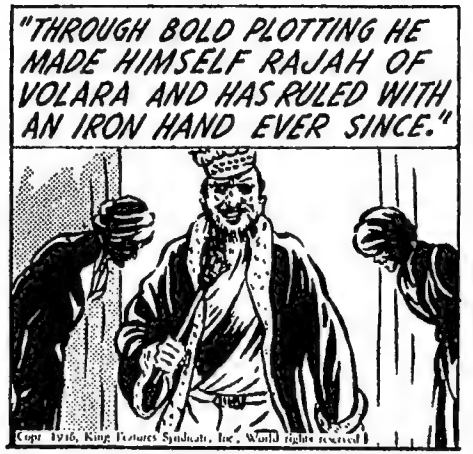
GOODBYE-- LITTLE PRINCESS--
SOMETHING ABOUT THIS I DON'T LIKE--

BUT THEIR STORY WAS TRUE-- YOU SAW THEIR CREDENTIALS--
I KNOW--BUT THEY WERE FURTIVE-- --SUSPICIOUS-- ANXIOUS--

IN THE JUNGLE-- YOU LEARN TO SMELL DANGER--AND DEATH! I SHOULDN'T HAVE LET HER GO-- SOMETHING'S WRONG--
3-2
CONT'D.

WHO IS THE WHITE RAJAH OF VOLARA ?
HE WAS A SOLDIER OF FORTUNE, DIANA.

"A HALF CENTURY AGO, HE WAS IN THE MIDDLE OF EVERY WAR IN THE ORIENT. HE HELPED 'FREE' VOLARA--"
3-4


"THROUGH BOLD PLOTTING HE MADE HIMSELF RAJAH OF VOLARA AND HAS RULED WITH AN IRON HAND EVER SINCE."

PRINCESS VALERIE IS THE ONLY LIVING HEIR, AND WITH THE RAJAH ILL---
SUCH A DARLING CHILD--I HOPE NOTHING HAPPENS TO HER--

VIZAR---MY GRANDDAUGHTER--VALERIE ?
ON HER WAY--BY FAST PLANE---GREAT RAJAH.

WOULDN'T IT BE SAD IF THE RAJAH DIED, VIZAR ?
VERY SAD, BELI.

--AND IF PRINCESS VALERIE, HIS ONLY HEIR---NEVER ARRIVED HERE ?
THAT, TOO, WOULD BE SAD.
3-5

THEN YOU WOULD BECOME THE RAJAH.
THAT WOULD BE SAD, INDEED.

AS PRINCESS VALERIE'S PLANE FLIES OVER THE JUNGLES---
WE'RE CLOSE TO THE PLACE, PILOT.
A FEW MINUTES MORE---
3-6
SHE'S ASLEEP.
SEEMS A SHAME-- WHAT WE'RE GOING TO DO TO THAT POOR CHILD--
ALL YOU'VE GOT TO DO IS FLY THIS PLANE AND KEEP YOUR MOUTH SHUT.
YES, SIR.
WHAT'S UP?
PRINCESS VALERIE'S PLANE IS GROUNDED IN A REMOTE JUNGLE CLEARING---
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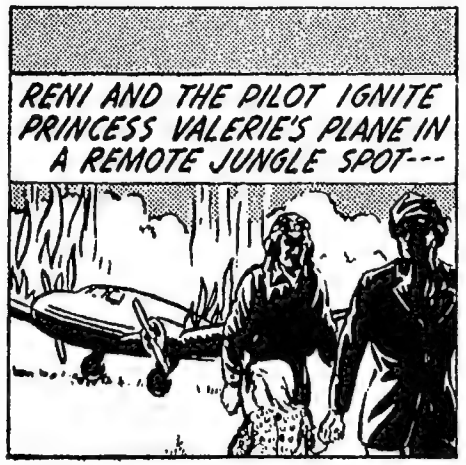
COME, PRINCESS, THIS IS WHERE WE GET OUT.
WHERE IS GRAMPY?
3-7
YOUR GRAMPY IS FAR AWAY-- THROW SOME GAS ON THE OTHER WING, TOO.
WHY ARE YOU BURNING THE NICE PLANE?
DON'T ASK SO MANY QUESTIONS.


RENI AND THE PILOT IGNITE PRINCESS VALERIE'S PLANE IN A REMOTE JUNGLE SPOT---

WHERE ARE WE GOING NOW ?
NOT FAR.

YOU WAIT HERE, PRINCESS.
HOW LONG MUST I WAIT ?

UNTIL WE COME BACK.
WHICH WILL BE-- --NEVER--
3-8

AH, THE HORSES--AT THE APPOINTED SPOT. VIZAR IS EFFICIENT.

REMEMBER, YOU WERE KILLED IN THE PLANE 'CRASH'-- WITH PRINCESS VALERIE--
AND I'M TO DISAPPEAR-- AFTER I'M PAID OFF--

HOW ABOUT THE CHILD ?
SHE WON'T LAST LONG IN THE JUNGLE--ANIMALS-- OR EXPOSURE--

THUS PRINCESS VALERIE, ONLY HEIR OF THE WHITE RAJAH, IS LEFT TO HER FATE.
3-9
CONT'D.

HERE'S YOUR MONEY. CHANGE YOUR NAME--NEVER APPEAR IN THIS PART OF THE WORLD AGAIN.

I UNDER-STAND.
YOU DIED--WITH PRINCESS VALERIE. GOODBYE--AND GOOD LUCK.

THAT'S THAT! NOW TO MUSS MYSELF UP A BIT---
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SEND A MESSAGE TO VOLARA! PRINCESS VALERIE--AND THE PILOT DEAD IN JUNGLE PLANE CRASH!
3-11
TELEGRAPH

WHY ARE YOU SO SAD, VIZAR? BAD NEWS?
VERY BAD, BELI.

PRINCESS VALERIE AND THE PILOT WERE KILLED WHEN THEIR PLANE CRASHED IN THE JUNGLE.
WHAT A TRAGEDY!

THE RAJAH MUST BE INFORMED, DOCTOR!
HOW HORRIBLE! BUT I CAN'T TELL THE RAJAH HIS GRANDDAUGHTER HAS DIED--

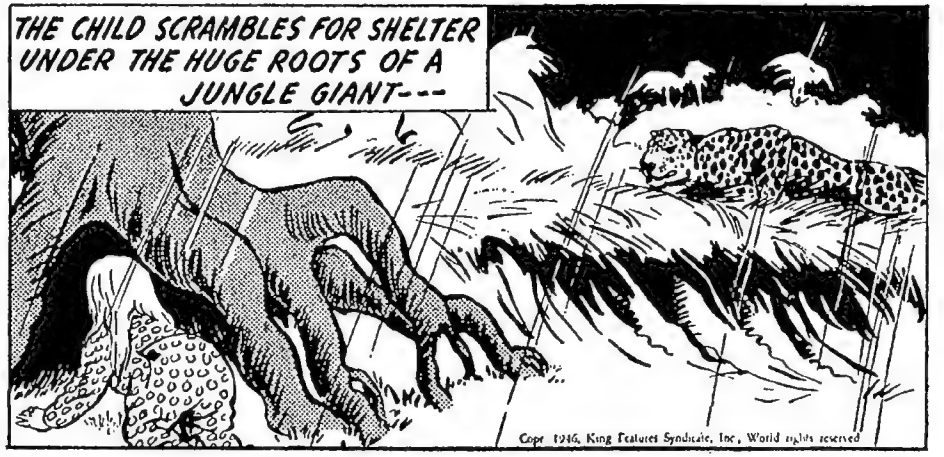
THE RAJAH IS ILL. THE SHOCK MIGHT KILL HIM!
IT IS OUR DUTY TO TELL HIM, DOCTOR.
3-12

YOUR GRANDDAUGHTER-EXCELLENCY. THE PLANE CRASHED IN THE JUNGLE--
SEND THE NURSE IN-- AT ONCE!
I WAS AFRAID OF THE SHOCK! IT MIGHT KILL HIM! ALLOW NO ONE TO SEE HIM!
IT WON'T BE LONG NOW! THEN WE'LL TAKE OVER, VIZAR!
THEN I'LL TAKE OVER, BELI.
3-13
XTRA
EXTRA EDITION
XTRA
PRINCESS VALERIE of VOLARA DEAD IN PLANE CRASH.
Survivor Reports Tragedy.
The sudden, tragic death of five-year old Valerie, heir to the throne of Volara shocked the world.. The tiny Princess
OH, THAT POOR, SWEET LITTLE CHILD--
YOU FELT SOMETHING WOULD HAPPEN--FROM THE START! DO YOU THINK--
I DON'T THINK IT WAS AN ACCIDENT!
I'M GOING TO FIND OUT!
3-14

VOLARA MOURNS THE SUDDEN DEATH OF ITS TINY PRINCESS, VALERIE--
I'M GOING TO VOLARA AT ONCE, AND FIND OUT THE TRUTH!
DARLING, TAKE ME WITH YOU!
IT'S BETTER I DO THIS ALONE, DIANA. IT MAY BE DANGEROUS-- AND DIRTY--
BE CAREFUL, DARLING--
MEANWHILE, AS THE WORLD MOURNS...THE LITTLE PRINCESS LIES ASLEEP, IN THE HEART OF A HOSTILE JUNGLE---
3-15
NIGHT IN THE JUNGLE--A LIGHT RAIN IS FALLING-VALERIE AWAKENS--
THEY SAID THEY'D COME BACK--MAYBE THEY GOT LOSTED IN THE WOODS--
I'LL FIND THEM. MAYBE THEY'RE AFRAID. I'M NOT AFRAID--BUT I'M SO HUNGRY--
VALERIE IS FOLLOWED BY A PARTY WHO IS ALSO HUNGRY--!
3-16

PRINCESS VALERIE RUNS THRU THE DARK, STORMY JUNGLE--NOT KNOWING SHE IS BEING TRAILED--

AWFUL STORM--I'LL GET ALL WET AND CATCH A BAD COLD--
3-18


THE CHILD SCRAMBLES FOR SHELTER UNDER THE HUGE ROOTS OF A JUNGLE GIANT---
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AS THE HUNGRY LEOPARD PREPARES TO SPRING AT THE CHILD--
WHAT A BIG PUSSY CAT! HERE PUSSY--COME OUT OF THE RAIN!

A LITTLE FAWN BREAKS ACROSS THE CLEARING--FRIGHTENED BY THE JUNGLE STORM--
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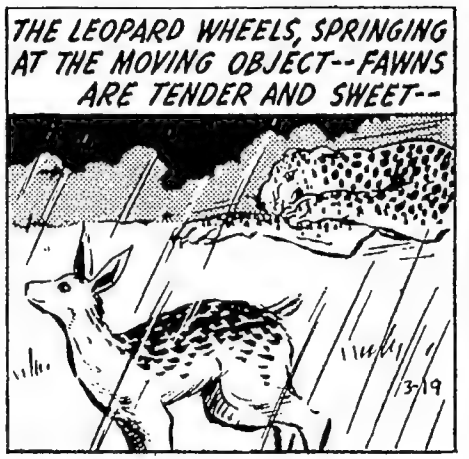
THE LEOPARD WHEELS, SPRINGING AT THE MOVING OBJECT--FAWNS ARE TENDER AND SWEET--
3-19

AND NOW--ANOTHER HUNGRY CAT ENTERS THE SCENE--AN ENORMOUS KILLER TIGER!

IN THE JUNGLE TORRENT, TIGER LEAPS AT LEOPARD! THE HURT FAWN ESCAPES---

--AND LIMPS TO THE CLOSEST SHELTER-
YOU SWEET, PRETTY, LITTLE DEER BABY--

THE FAMISHED TIGER TURNS TO THE SHELTER--AND THE TWO BABIES! IF A TIGER'S MOUTH CAN WATER, THIS ONE'S DOES!
WHAT A GREAT BIG PUSSY CAT!
3-20
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YOU'RE NOT A PUSSY CAT! YOU'RE A BAD TIGER! GO AWAY, TIGER!

A HERD OF ELEPHANTS, STAMPEDED BY THE STORM, COMES TRUMPETING THRU THE BUSH!
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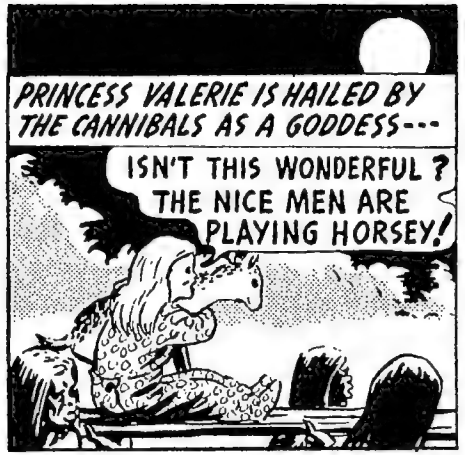
THE TIGER TRIES TO FLEE, BUT IS CAUGHT IN THE CLEARING, UNDER THE MASSIVE FEET---

3-21

THE LITTLE PRINCESS COMFORTS THE LITTLE FAWN--
SWEET LITTLE BABY DEER. YOU'RE SHIVERING. DON'T BE AFRAID--
IT'S STILL RAINING SO HARD. WE CAN'T GO OUT. WE'D GET COLDS AND GRAMPY WOULD BE SO ANGRY--
GO TO SLEEP, LITTLE BABY. I'M YOUR MOMMY AND I'LL TAKE CARE OF YOU.
3-22
Copr. 1946, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved.
A PARTY OF TIWA CANNIBALS--- DRIVEN FROM THEIR ROUTE BY THE STORM-NEARS THE JUNGLE SHELTER-
VALERIE AND THE FAWN SLEEP BLISSFULLY, UNAWARE OF THE APPROACHING CANNIBALS.
LOOK-UNDER TREE. LITTLE WHITE GIRL AND FAWN-- ASLEEP!
BUT WHAT IS THAT?
3-23
DEAD LEOPARD-- DEAD TIGER!
KILLED--BY THAT LITTLE ONE?
CONT'D.

DANGEROUSLY ILL, THE WHITE RAJAH OF VOLARA SENDS TO AMERICA FOR HIS ONLY HEIR, THE TINY PRINCESS VALERIE.
THE STORY, SO FAR
BUT VIZAR, A NOBLEMAN, HAS OTHER PLANS.
VALERIE MUST NOT ARRIVE HERE ALIVE! IF THE OLD MAN DIES, I WILL TAKE THE THRONE!
VALERIE'S PLANE IS LANDED IN THE JUNGLE, WHERE A FAKE CRASH IS STAGED--NEWS GOES OUT THAT VALERIE DIED IN THE CRASH---
3-25
Copr. 1936, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved
MEANWHILE, VALERIE IS STRANDED IN THE JUNGLE-AND AS SHE SLEEPS--IS FOUND BY TIWA CANNIBALS!
TOMORROW: FROM THERE ON..
THE TIGER AND THE LEOPARD--DEAD--!
SHE KILLED BOTH-THERE CAN BE NO OTHER EXPLANATION--
SHE IS BEWITCHED--
Copr. 1936, King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved
LOOK AT THE FUNNY MEN!
HAIL, LITTLE WHITE GODDESS OF THE JUNGLE.
3-26


PRINCESS VALERIE IS HAILED BY THE CANNIBALS AS A GODDESS---
ISN'T THIS WONDERFUL ? THE NICE MEN ARE PLAYING HORSEY!

AND CARRIED IN TRIUMPH TO THEIR VILLAGE.

THE TIWA CANNIBALS, MOST FEROCIOUS INHABITANTS OF THE JUNGLE, BOW BEFORE THE CHILD..

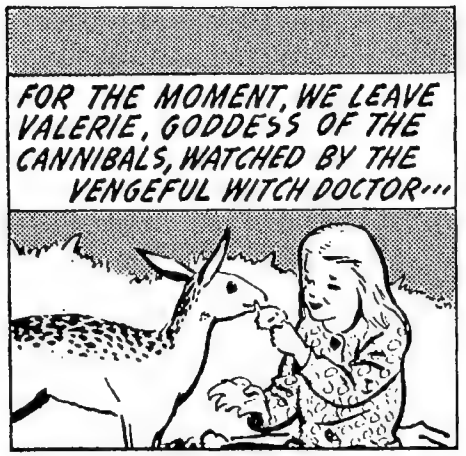
..WHO IS UNIMPRESSED BY ALL THIS GLORY.
I'M HUNGRY!
3-27

A SACRIFICE--FOR THE LITTLE WHITE GODDESS.
OH, GEE! WE'RE SO HUNGRY!

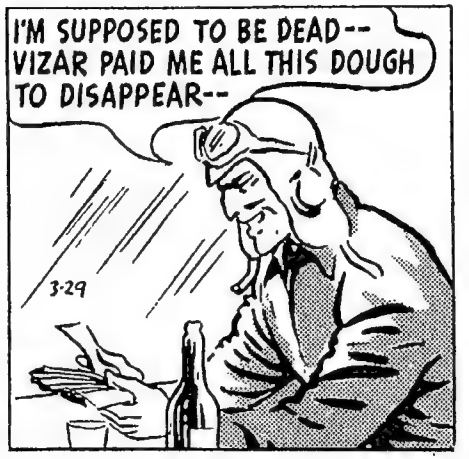
THIS WHITE GODDESS--WHO DESTROYED THE MIGHTY TIGER AND LEOPARD-WILL BRING US STRENGTH AND GOOD FORTUNE.

BUT THE WITCH-DOCTOR IS WISER THAN THE OTHERS--AND KNOWS THAT LITTLE GIRLS ARE NOT REALLY GODDESSES--

BESIDES, HE SEES HIS OWN POWER AND INFLUENCE IN THE TRIBE DISAPPEARING---
I WILL FIND A WAY-- TO DESTROY HER!
3-28


FOR THE MOMENT, WE LEAVE VALERIE, GODDESS OF THE CANNIBALS, WATCHED BY THE VENGEFUL WITCH DOCTOR...

--AND RETURN TO THE PILOT WHO WAS SUPPOSED TO HAVE DIED IN THE PLANE CRASH WITH HER.
JOE'S PLACE


I'M SUPPOSED TO BE DEAD-- VIZAR PAID ME ALL THIS DOUGH TO DISAPPEAR--
3-29

WON'T HURT TO SPEND SOME, AND HAVE A LITTLE FUN BEFORE I LEAVE---
?

MORRISTOWN, ON THE BENGALI COAST
WE'LL GO TO JOE'S PLACE FIRST, DEVIL. HE USUALLY HEARS ALL THE INSIDE NEWS.

NO QUESTION TO IT--PRINCESS VALERIE AND THE PILOT DIED IN THAT CRASH. NOBODY'S FOUND THE PLANE YET.

MAYBE I'VE BEEN WRONG. MAYBE IT WAS AN ACCIDENT-- AND SHE IS DEAD-- POOR BABY--

JOE'S PLACE
3-30
CONT'D.

WHERE'VE YOU BEEN ALL OUR LIFE ?
HAVIN' FUN, KIDS.

WHEE! WHERE'D YOU GET ALL THAT LETTUCE?
PLENTY MORE WHERE THAT CAME FROM. I'M A BIG OPERATOR!

I'VE SEEN HIM BEFORE! HE'S THE PILOT---WHO WAS SUPPOSED TO HAVE DIED IN THAT PLANE CRASH WITH VALERIE!
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4-1

MIND STEPPING OUTSIDE? I'D LIKE TO SPEAK TO YOU.
GO AWAY. I'M BUSY.

SORRY TO DISTURB YOU.
HEY--!

LOOKIT THAT GUY! BOTHERIN' OUR BEST CUSTOMER!
WE'LL TROW DE GUY OUT.
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4-2
TOMORROW: BRAWL

BOTHERIN' OUR BEST CUSTOMER-- UGH--
WE KNOW HOW TO HANDLE TOUGHIES LIKE YOU!
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NOW, WE'LL GO OUTSIDE FOR OUR LITTLE CHAT.
4-3
WHERE'D HE GET THAT-- BASEBALL BAT?
WASN'T A BASEBALL BAT-- WAS A SLEDGE HAMMER--!
YOU DIDN'T DIE IN THAT PLANE WRECK! NEITHER DID VALERIE! WHAT HAPPENED TO HER?
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING--- ABOUT! WHO-WHO ARE YOU?
NEVER MIND WHO I AM!
I HAVEN'T GOT THE TIME OR INCLINATION TO ARGUE WITH YOU!
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ANSWER MY QUESTION, OR I'LL PUNCH A HOLE LIKE THAT THRU YOUR HEAD!
4-4

PRINCESS VALERIE DIDN'T DIE IN THE CRASH. WE FAKED THE CRASH--AND STRANDED HER IN THE JUNGLE!

A PRETTY STORY! FOLLOW ME, AND DON'T LAG BEHIND, OR "DEVIL" WILL TAKE CARE OF YOU!

THE PILOT WILL NEVER FORGET THIS DASH INTO THE JUNGLE, AS HE DRIVES HIMSELF TO KEEP UP WITH THE TIRELESS FIGURE--
4-5
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BUT "DEVIL'S" GLEAMING TEETH SEEM TO REPLY: "OH, YES YOU CAN!"
I CAN'T--RUN--ANOTHER STEP-

HERO!
HE IS IN READINESS, AS YOU COMMANDED, OH, GHOST WHO WALKS!

THE PILOT IS EXHAUSTED. WHO IS HIS IRON CAPTOR? AND THIS MAGNIFICENT WHITE HORSE--APPEARING FROM NOWHERE-
GHOST--WHO--WALKS?
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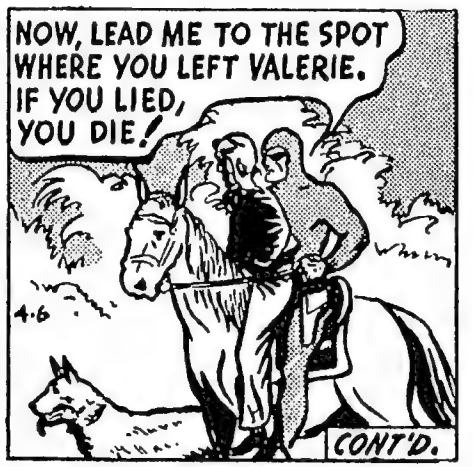
THE PHANTOM!


NOW, LEAD ME TO THE SPOT WHERE YOU LEFT VALERIE. IF YOU LIED, YOU DIE!
4-6
CONT'D.

THERE'S THE PLANE-
OR WHAT'S LEFT
OF IT.

HERE'S WHERE WE LEFT THE
LITTLE GIRL--SHE'S NOT HERE--
BUT WE LEFT HER--
RIGHT HERE--
4-8

HERO AND DEVIL HAVE NEVER
SEEN THE PHANTOM IN SUCH
A COLD FURY BEFORE---
SHE'S--NOT HERE--

I'VE TOLD--THE TRUTH! NO--
YOU CAN'T--
HANG--ME!
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DON'T PUT THAT--
AROUND MY
NECK--NO!
AROUND YOUR
WAIST, FOOL. PUT
YOUR HANDS
DOWN--

I'M LEAVING YOU HERE UNTIL
I RETURN. ANIMALS WON'T BE
ABLE TO REACH
YOU THERE.

WHAT IF SOMETHING HAPPENS
TO YOU--WHAT IF YOU DON'T
COME BACK--THEN WHAT
HAPPENS TO ME?

YOU CAN ANSWER THAT
YOURSELF.
4-9
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THE PHANTOM TRAILS VALERIE---
FAINT TRAIL. STORM WASHED MOST OF IT OUT.

ANIMALS MIGHT HAVE GOTTEN HER--OR WORSE--THIS LEADS TO CANNIBAL COUNTRY--
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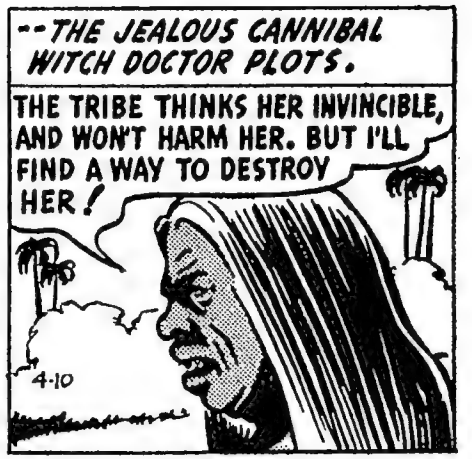
MEANWHILE, AS VALERIE, NOW GODDESS OF THE CANNIBALS, FEEDS HER PET FAWN--
EAT A GRAPE, HONEY.


--THE JEALOUS CANNIBAL WITCH DOCTOR PLOTS.
THE TRIBE THINKS HER INVINCIBLE, AND WON'T HARM HER. BUT I'LL FIND A WAY TO DESTROY HER!
4-10

POOH--YOU HAVE NO MAGIC---
THE LITTLE WHITE GODDESS HAS REAL MAGIC--
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EACH DAY I LOSE MORE POWER--NOW THEY MOCK ME--BECAUSE OF THAT LITTLE----! SOON--THEY MAY EVEN--EAT ME!
4-11

I'VE GOT TO ACT FAST--IF I DON'T DESTROY HER--SHE'LL DESTROY ME--I THINK I'VE GOT IT!

WHAT IS HIS PLAN?
I WANT AN AUDIENCE WITH THE CHIEF.
WAIT HERE, "WITCH DOCTOR."

CHIEF, THE SPIRITS DO NOT LIKE THE WHITE GODDESS. THEY TELL US TO DESTROY HER.
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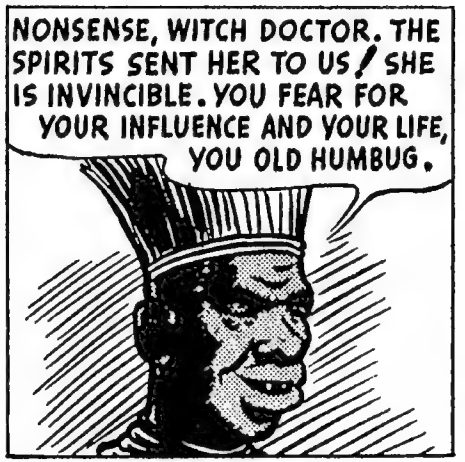
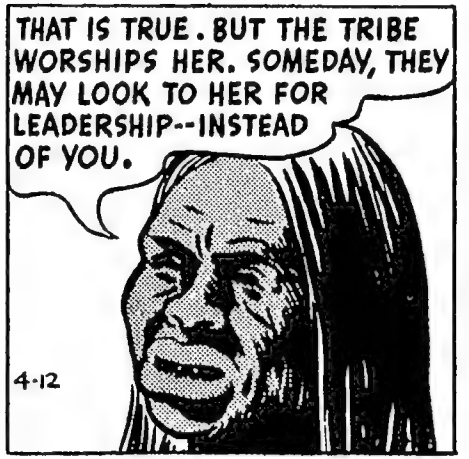

NONSENSE, WITCH DOCTOR. THE SPIRITS SENT HER TO US! SHE IS INVINCIBLE. YOU FEAR FOR YOUR INFLUENCE AND YOUR LIFE, YOU OLD HUMBUG.


THAT IS TRUE. BUT THE TRIBE WORSHIPS HER. SOMEDAY, THEY MAY LOOK TO HER FOR LEADERSHIP--INSTEAD OF YOU.
4-12

HMM--I HADN'T THOUGHT OF THAT. PERHAPS--YOU'D BETTER ASK THE SPIRITS WHAT TO DO ABOUT HER!
TOMORROW: THE 'SPIRITS' COOPERATE

ALI BULLI BUNKO.. SPEAK TO ME, DEMON SPIRITS.

SPIRITS SAY--WHITE GODDESS HAS--GREAT POWER--EACH OF OUR TRIBE SHALL EAT OF HER--AND THUS GAIN HER POWER--

THE SPIRITS HAVE SPOKEN WISELY, WITCH DOCTOR. WE CANNOT DISOBEY THEM.
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4-13
CONT'D.

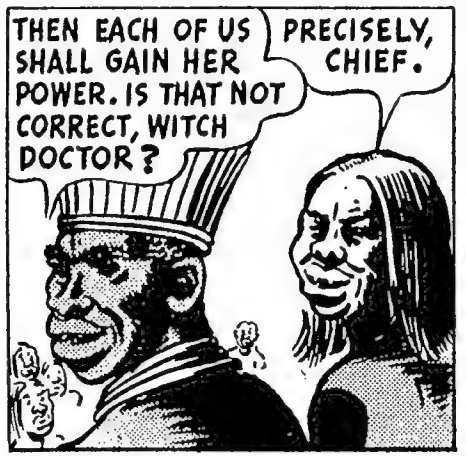
THE PHANTOM TRAILS VALERIE--
A DEAD TIGER--AND LEOPARD--LOOKS AS IF THE TIGER KILLED THE LEOPARD--AND THEN WAS STAMPED TO DEATH--

A BLOND HAIR--IN THIS SHELTER--SHE WAS HERE!

HERE'S A FRESH TRAIL! MANY FEET PASSED THIS WAY!

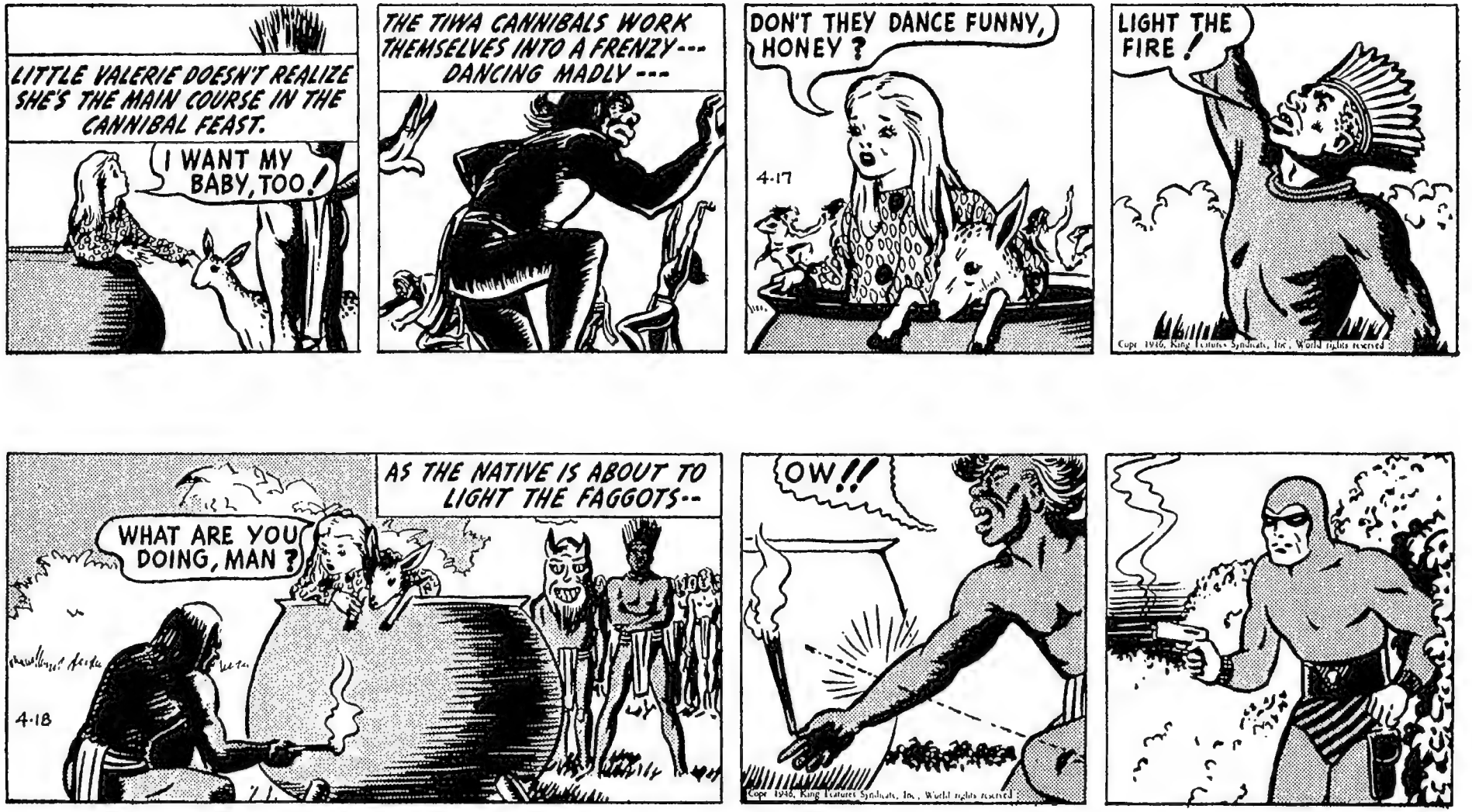
IT LEADS TO THE TIWA CANNIBALS! IF ONLY I'M NOT TOO LATE--!
4-15

MY PEOPLE, IT IS THE JUDGMENT OF THE DEMON SPIRITS THAT EACH OF US SHALL PARTAKE OF THE FLESH OF THE WHITE GODDESS.


THEN EACH OF US SHALL GAIN HER POWER. IS THAT NOT CORRECT, WITCH DOCTOR?
PRECISELY, CHIEF.

WHERE ARE WE GOING, MAN?

OOOH--THE WATER'S COLD!
4-16


LITTLE VALERIE DOESN'T REALIZE SHE'S THE MAIN COURSE IN THE CANNIBAL FEAST.
I WANT MY BABY, TOO!
THE TIWA CANNIBALS WORK THEMSELVES INTO A FRENZY--- DANCING MADLY---
DON'T THEY DANCE FUNNY, HONEY?
4-17
LIGHT THE FIRE!
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WHAT ARE YOU DOING, MAN?
AS THE NATIVE IS ABOUT TO LIGHT THE FAGGOTS--
4-18
OW!!
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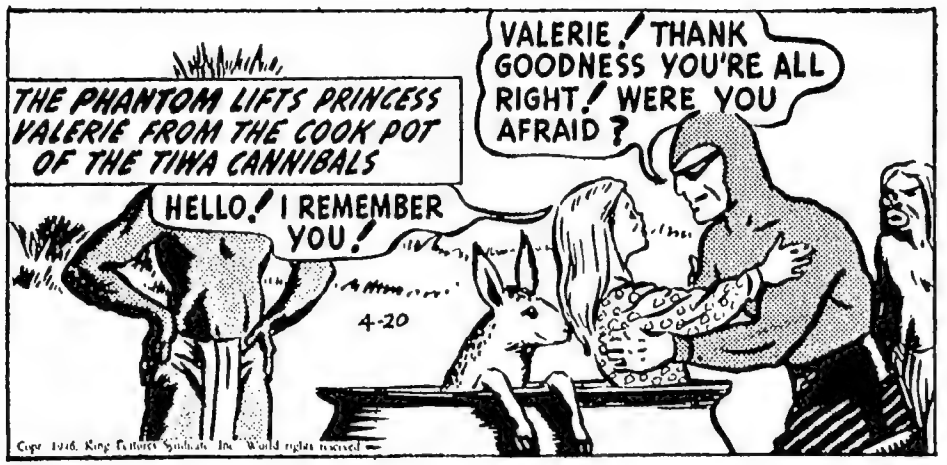
KNOWING JUNGLE TRIBES, THE PHANTOM SPOTS THE GUILTY LEADERS AND ACTS FAST--- FIRST- THE CHIEF--
UH--

THEN --THE WITCH DOCTOR--
OOF--

LEADERLESS, THE TRIBE SHRINKS BACK BEFORE THE FURY OF THE GHOST WHO WALKS!
WELL? WHO ELSE HAD A PART IN THIS?
4-19


THE PHANTOM LIFTS PRINCESS VALERIE FROM THE COOK POT OF THE TIWA CANNIBALS
HELLO! I REMEMBER YOU!
VALERIE! THANK GOODNESS YOU'RE ALL RIGHT! WERE YOU AFRAID?
4-20

I WASN'T AFRAID. THEY LEFT ALL MY CLOTHES ON, AND THE WATER WAS COLD! THEY'RE SO SILLY!
SILLY? WHY?

THEY DON'T EVEN KNOW HOW TO GIVE A LITTLE GIRL A BATH!
CONT'D.

FOR ATTEMPTING TO KILL THIS CHILD--YOU TWO SHALL LOSE ALL YOUR RICHES, TITLES AND HONORS--

--AND FURTHER--YOU ARE SENTENCED TO HARD LABOR FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIVES IN THIS TRIBE.
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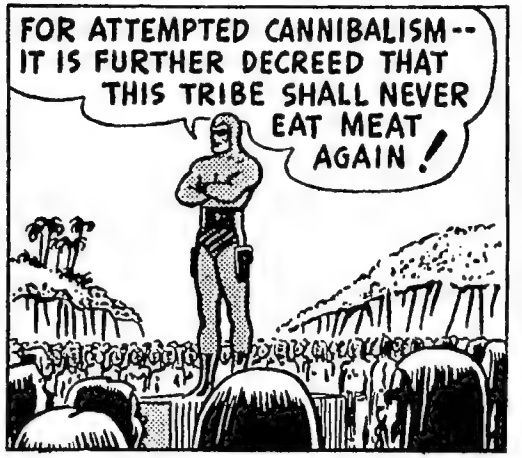
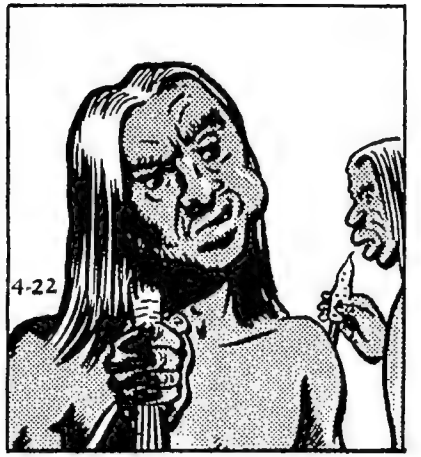
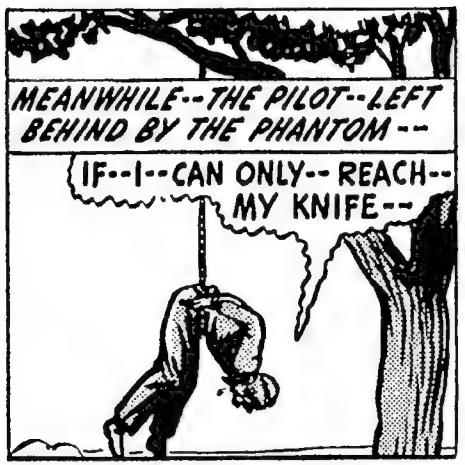

FOR ATTEMPTED CANNIBALISM--IT IS FURTHER DECREED THAT THIS TRIBE SHALL NEVER EAT MEAT AGAIN!


4-22


MEANWHILE--THE PILOT--LEFT BEHIND BY THE PHANTOM--
IF--I--CAN ONLY--REACH--MY KNIFE--

MADE IT!
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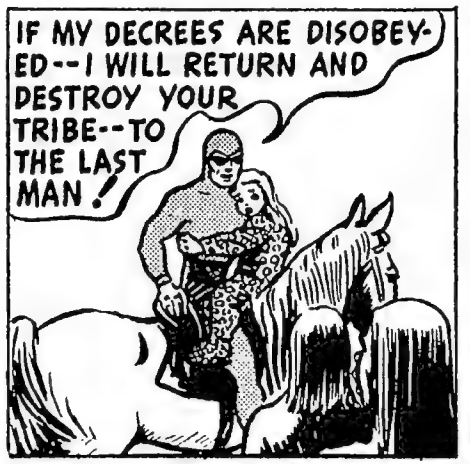
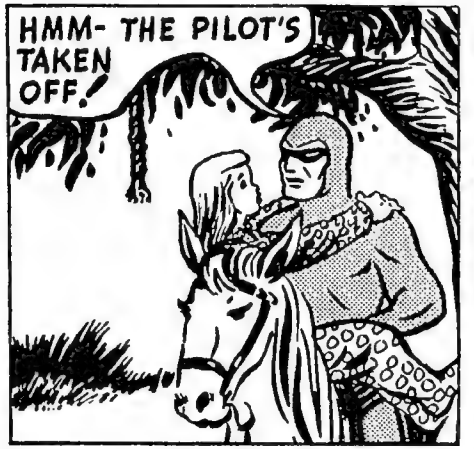

IF MY DECREES ARE DISOBEYED--I WILL RETURN AND DESTROY YOUR TRIBE--TO THE LAST MAN!

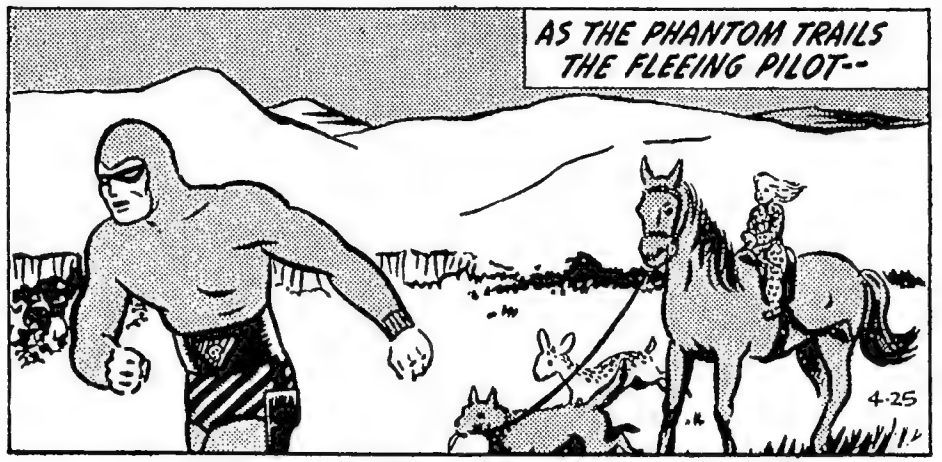
WOULD YOU, REALLY?
NO, DARLING. BUT I HAVE TO SOUND TOUGH. NOW TO TALK TO THAT PILOT!
4-23

THE PILOT TRIED TO KILL PRINCESS VALERIE BY FAKING A PLANE CRASH AND STRANDING HER IN THE JUNGLE.

THE HIGHER-UP WHO GAVE THOSE ORDERS IS THE MAN TO FIND! THE PILOT CAN TELL ME WHO HE IS!
4-24


HMM- THE PILOT'S TAKEN OFF!

I'VE GOT TO GET AWAY BEFORE HE FINDS ME-- HE'LL TEAR ME APART--!


AS THE PHANTOM TRAILS THE FLEEING PILOT--
4-25

MY ONLY CHANCE IS -- TO GET TO-- THAT BOAT--!

THAT'S BAD--HE'LL SEND A WARNING AHEAD --

IN A RIVER PORT---
SHE'S ALIVE--AND THIS PHANTOM IS BRINGING HER TO THE CAPITOL, VIZAR!
ALIVE?
ALIVE!
KNOW WHAT'LL HAPPEN, BELI, IF THE WHITE RAJAH FINDS OUT THAT WE TRIED TO KILL HIS GRANDDAUGHTER?
4-26
WE'D BOTH BE TORN APART BY WILD HORSES, VIZAR.
PRECISELY! PRINCESS VALERIE AND THIS PHANTOM MUST NEVER REACH THE CAPITOL ALIVE!
COLONEL, IF YOU FAIL IN THIS SECRET MISSION--IT MEANS YOUR HEAD-- AND MINE.
WE'RE TO WATCH FOR A MASKED MAN ON A WHITE HORSE-- WITH A CHILD AND A DOG --
4-27
EVERY ROAD, EVERY LANE TO THE CAPITOL IS WATCHED--
--AND SHOOT TO KILL--
HI-HO-HI-HO--TO THE CAPITOL WE GO--

THE AILING WHITE RAJAH OF VOLARA SENDS TO AMERICA FOR HIS GRANDDAUGHTER AND ONLY HEIR--PRINCESS VALERIE.
VIZAR, WHO COVETS THE THRONE, PLOTS TO KILL THE LITTLE PRINCESS EN ROUTE! A FAKE PLANE CRASH IS ARRANGED--
SHE IS NOT TO REACH HERE ALIVE!
--PRINCESS VALERIE IS STRANDED IN THE JUNGLE, AND NEWS FLASHES AROUND THE WORLD THAT SHE DIED IN THE PLANE CRASH.
4-29
THE PHANTOM SAVES VALERIE, UNAWARE THAT EVERY ROAD IS BLOCKED BY MACHINE-GUNNERS ORDERED TO SHOOT BOTH OF THEM ON SIGHT!
WHAT'S HAPPENING? THEY SHOULD BE SPOTTED BY NOW!
THERE'S A CALL FROM THE FIELD NOW!
PATROL 86 REPORTING, SIR. MASKED MAN ON WHITE HORSE WITH CHILD, DOG AND FAWN APPROACHING FROM SOUTH.
SHOOT TO KILL-- AND DON'T MISS!
CAN'T MISS. WE'VE GOT A DEAD BEAD ON THEM, SIR.
4-30

WHY DID WE STOP?
SHH--

TRUSTING THE ANIMALS' KEEN INSTINCTS--HE VEERS OFF THE ROAD JUST IN TIME TO MISS A HAIL OF BULLETS!

WE MISSED HIM-- HE GOT INTO THE WOODS!
GET HIM! NO EXCUSES!

IF HE GETS AWAY--IT'S OUR NECKS!
HE WON'T! THE WOODS ARE TOO THICK FOR THE HORSE TO GO THRU!
5-1

HERO CAN'T GO THRU THESE WOODS. TOO THICK. WAIT HERE, AND DON'T MOVE.
DON'T LET THE BAD MEN GET US.

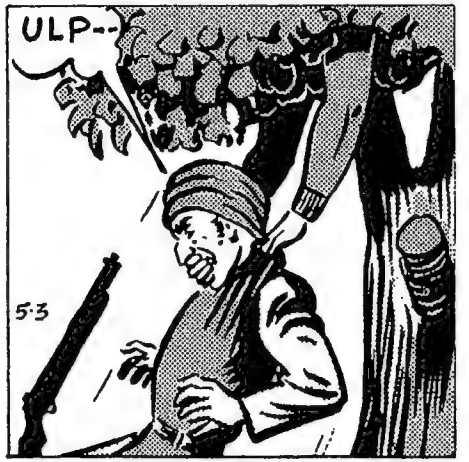
"WHEN THE PHANTOM IS ANGRY, THE JUNGLE SHAKES."
--OLD NATIVE SAYING.
TRYING TO SHOOT A LITTLE CHILD! WHEN I GET MY HANDS ON THEM!

LET'S SPREAD OUT, FELLOWS. HE CAN'T BE FAR. THERE'S ONLY ONE OF HIM-- AND THREE OF US!
5-2

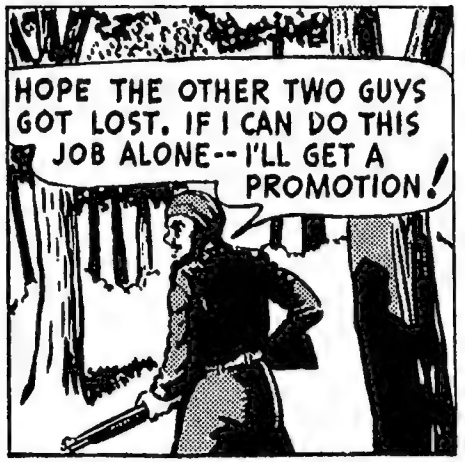
THE SUDDEN GRASP OF IRON FINGERS--"AND THEN THERE WERE TWO!"
ULP--

WHAT WAS THAT ?
I DIDN'T HEAR ANYTHING.

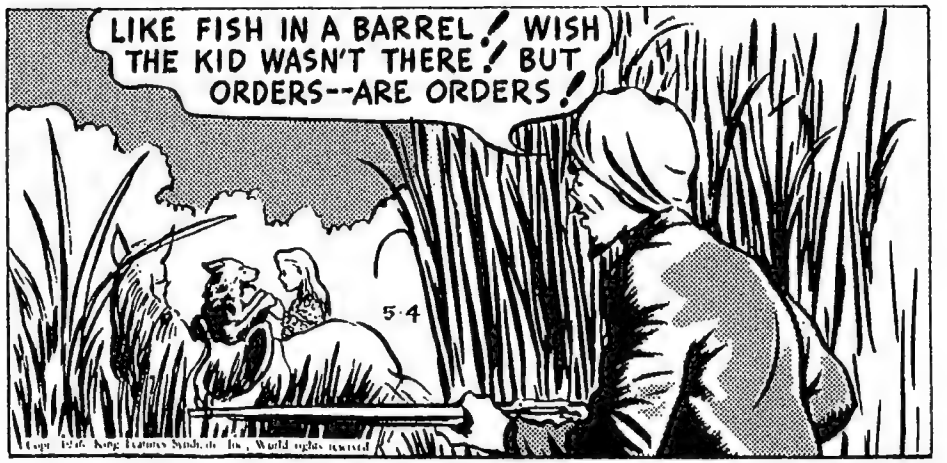
WAIT THERE, AND KEEP ME COVERED. I HEARD SOMETHING MOVE UP AHEAD.


ULP--
5-3

"AND THEN THERE WAS ONE."
WE'D BETTER ARRANGE SIGNALS IN CASE--HEY--WHERE'D HE GO?


HOPE THE OTHER TWO GUYS GOT LOST. IF I CAN DO THIS JOB ALONE--I'LL GET A PROMOTION!

MAYBE I'LL EVEN GET A COMMISSION! HEY--CAN THAT BE?--IT IS!

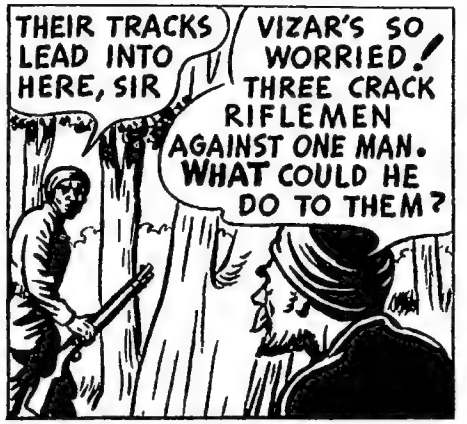

LIKE FISH IN A BARREL! WISH THE KID WASN'T THERE! BUT ORDERS--ARE ORDERS!
5-4

AS THE SOLDIER IS ABOUT TO FIRE--VALERIE WALKS INDIGNANTLY TO HIM. HE HESITATES--
DON'T YOU DARE SHOOT AT US, YOU BAD MAN!
5-6
Copr. 1936 King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved.

THAT HESITATION SAVES THEIR LIVES--AS THE PHANTOM REACHES THE SCENE--AND LANDS LIKE A TON OF BRICKS!

YOU'RE MY GIRL! THERE'S NONE OTHER LIKE YOU, DARLING!
WE FIXED HIM, DIDN'T WE?

NO REPORT FROM THE PATROL, SIR. THE PHONE'S DEAD.
SEE WHAT'S HAPPENED! GO THERE AT ONCE!


THEIR TRACKS LEAD INTO HERE, SIR
VIZAR'S SO WORRIED! THREE CRACK RIFLEMEN AGAINST ONE MAN. WHAT COULD HE DO TO THEM?

GOOD---NIGHT--!
5-7
Copr. 1936, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved.

ALL ARE ALIVE-- BUT THEY LOOK AS IF THEY WERE HIT WITH A SLEDGE HAMMER!
SIR-- WHAT ARE THOSE FUNNY MARKS ON THEIR JAWS? LOOK LIKE-- SKULLS!
5-8

THAT'S WHAT IT IS--A DEATH'S HEAD! THIS IS--EERIE! LISTEN-- HOOF-BEATS--AND SINGING!
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HI-HO, HI-HO, TO GRANDPA'S HOUSE WE GO--AND THEY WON'T STOP US--THEY WON'T STOP US-- HI-HO, HI-HO!

HE GOT THRU, BELI! HE'S COMING TO THE CAPITOL!
RELAX, VIZAR! EVERYTHING IS UNDER CONTROL.

"I'VE POSTED SHARPSHOOTERS WITH TELESCOPIC SIGHTS ALL AROUND THE CITY WALLS."
5-9

"WHEN THE PHANTOM GETS IN RANGE OF THOSE SIGHTS, HE'LL NEVER KNOW WHAT HIT HIM!"
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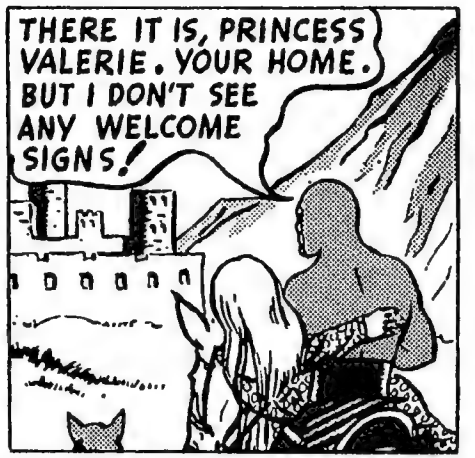

THERE IT IS, PRINCESS VALERIE. YOUR HOME. BUT I DON'T SEE ANY WELCOME SIGNS!

I SEE THEM! MASKED MAN ON A WHITE HORSE!
RIGHT! READY--AIM--FIRE!

A BULLET WHIZZES OUT OF NOWHERE-- NICKING HERO AND MISSING THE PHANTOM BY A HAIR!
WHOA, BOY!

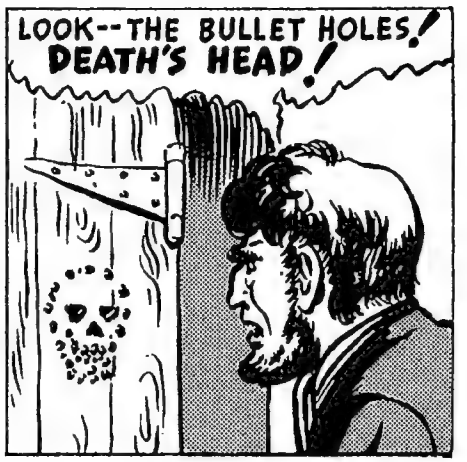
HERO IS TRAINED TO FALL AND "PLAY DEAD"-- WHICH HE DOES--
DOWN, HERO!

I GOT THEM, SIR! BY THAT OLD TOWER!
GOOD WORK! I'LL PHONE THE VIZAR!
5-10

JUST A FLESH WOUND. NOTHING SERIOUS. STAY HERE, ALL OF YOU, AND "PLAY DEAD."

THE PHANTOM CRAWLS ALONG THE GROUND TO THE OLD TOWER--

BULLETS SUDDENLY WHIZZ FROM THE TOWER--
THEY FELL BY THAT TOWER. HERE ARE THE GLASSES. YOU CAN SEE FOR YOURSELF-- DOWN!
5-11


LOOK--THE BULLET HOLES! DEATH'S HEAD!

THE PHANTOM DROPS FROM THE TOWER ONTO HERO~~
LET'S TAKE OFF!
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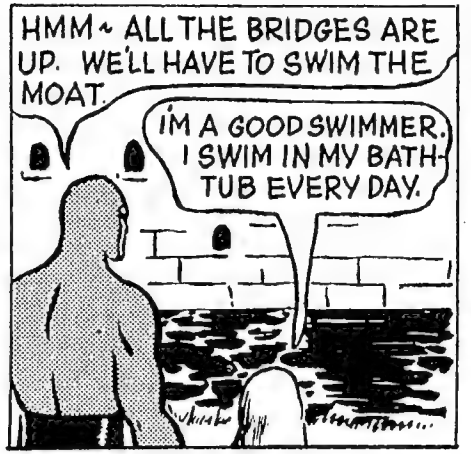
SWOOPS VALERIE FROM THE GROUND AND IS OFF IN A FLASH!
HE WENT WEST!
EAST, I THINK, SIR!
HE WENT BOTH WAYS AT ONCE, NO DOUBT!
5-13
THE IDIOTS DON'T KNOW WHICH WAY HE WENT. THAT DEATH'S HEAD IS STARTING TO DRIVE ME CRAZY!
WE'LL STAY HERE UNTIL IT GETS REAL DARK. BESIDES, I THINK YOU NEED A NAP, VALERIE.
Copr. 1946, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved
I'M NOT SLEEPY, REALLY AND TRULY I'M NOT~~~ZZZZZZZZZ
VIZAR, YOU'VE GOT A MILLION SOLDIERS TO DO YOUR BIDDING. YOU CAN'T BE AFRAID OF ONE MAN!
I FEAR NO MAN!
5-14
BUT THIS PHANTOM~~THE NATIVES CALL HIM "THE GHOST WHO WALKS"~~THEY SAY HE CANNOT DIE. I KNOW IT'S NONSENSE~~OR IS IT?

STAY HERE, DEVIL, WITH HERO AND HONEY, UNTIL I RETURN. UNDERSTAND?
WOOF


HMM ~ ALL THE BRIDGES ARE UP. WE'LL HAVE TO SWIM THE MOAT.
I'M A GOOD SWIMMER. I SWIM IN MY BATH-TUB EVERY DAY.

ARE ALL THE BRIDGES UP, BELI?
YES, AS YOU ORDERED, VIZAR. SUCH COMMOTION FOR ONE MAN, EVEN IF HE IS A SPOOK.
5-15

IF HE TRIES TO SWIM THE MOAT, THE ROYAL CROCODILES WHICH INFEST IT WILL BE DELIGHTED! THEY LOVE GHOST STEAK!
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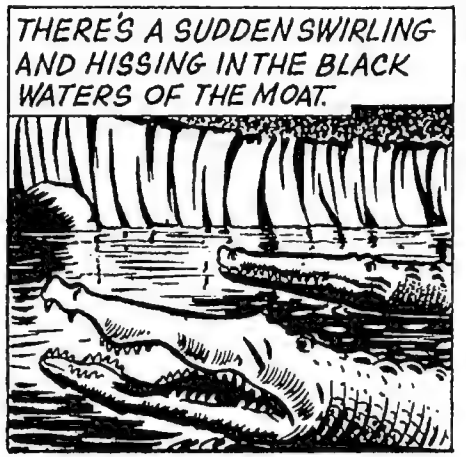
HANG ON TIGHT, DARLING, AND DON'T LET GO. THE WATER'S COLD
I WON'T LET GO.


THERE'S A SUDDEN SWIRLING AND HISSING IN THE BLACK WATERS OF THE MOAT.

WHOOPS
I KNOW WHAT THAT IS! ~ C ~ FOR ALLIGATOR.
SNAP-

CROCODILE, BABY! I MIGHT FIGHT ACROSS ALONE ~ BUT I CAN'T TAKE A CHANCE WITH YOU. WE'RE STUCK!
5-16
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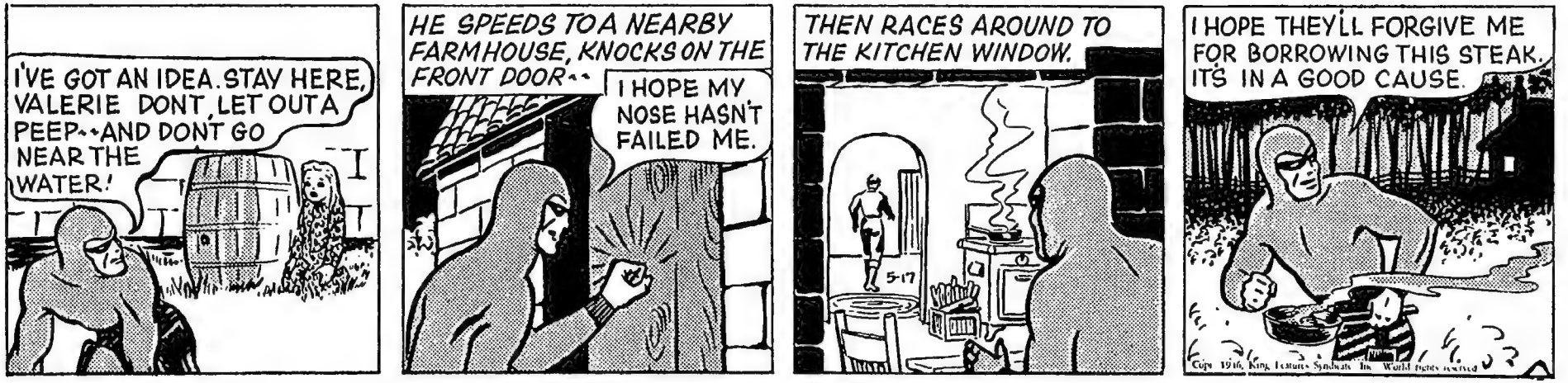
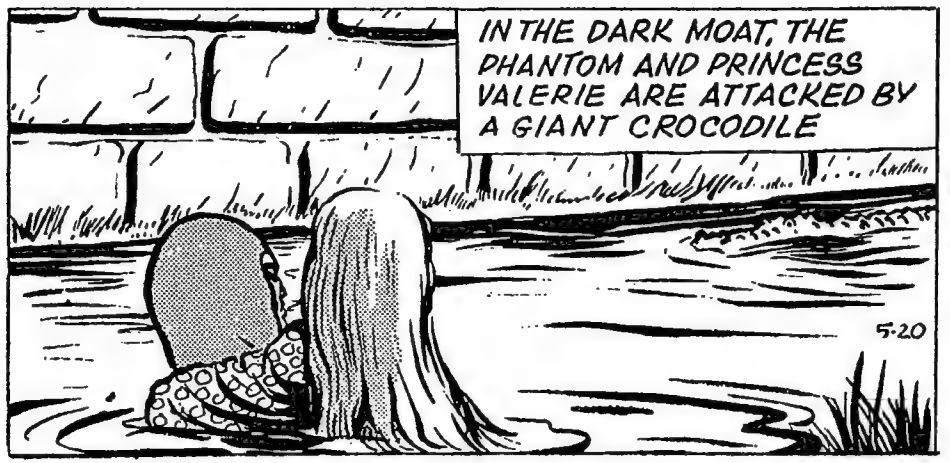
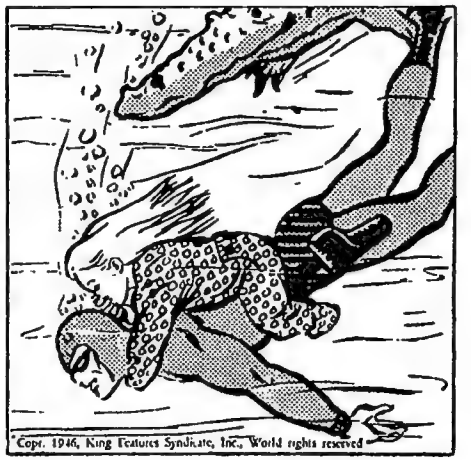

I'VE GOT AN IDEA. STAY HERE, VALERIE DONT LET OUT A PEEP--AND DONT GO NEAR THE WATER!
HE SPEEDS TO A NEARBY FARMHOUSE, KNOCKS ON THE FRONT DOOR--
I HOPE MY NOSE HASN'T FAILED ME.
THEN RACES AROUND TO THE KITCHEN WINDOW.
5-17
I HOPE THEY'LL FORGIVE ME FOR BORROWING THIS STEAK. IT'S IN A GOOD CAUSE.

UMM--IS THE STEAK FOR US?
NO, FOR THE CROCODILES. HERE IT GOES.
THE HUNGRY CROCODILES FIGHT FOR THE STEAK IN THE DARK WATERS OF THE MOAT.
HOLD TIGHT, IT ISN'T FAR ACROSS.
OOO--THE WATER'S SO COLD!
5-18
BUT ONE CROC IGNORES THE STEAK, SPOTTING BIGGER GAME, AND DIVES AT THE PHANTOM AND VALERIE!


IN THE DARK MOAT, THE PHANTOM AND PRINCESS VALERIE ARE ATTACKED BY A GIANT CROCODILE
5-20

TAKE A DEEP BREATH, HOLD YOUR NOSE, AND DON'T BE AFRAID.
I'M NOT.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THEY ARE UNDER WATER ONLY A FEW SECONDS AS THE PHANTOM SWIFTLY AND NEATLY HANDLES THE GIANT CROCODILE ..

I COULDNA HELD MY BREATH.. FOR ANOTHER MINUTE.. WHEW..
GOOD GIRL! NOW UP THE WALL WE GO.

AND ATOP THE CITY WALL
CROCKS ARE KICKING UP A FUSS DOWN THERE TONIGHT THINK I'LL HAVE A LOOK!
5-21
Copr. 1946, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved.

WE'RE GOING UP THE WALL, HONEY I'LL LOOSEN MY GUN-BELT AND YOU SLIP YOUR LEGS THRU

THIS IS FUN!
SH-H-H-
5-22

I STILL SAY I HEARD SOMETHING
YOU'RE ALWAYS HEARING THINGS. MAYBE IT'S THE MASKED MAN

AND MAYBE THEY'LL MAKE YOU A GENERAL
YOU'RE TOO LAZY TO LIVE. WHO DOES YOUR BREATHING FOR YOU?
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DON'T BUCK SO HARD. YOU'LL BE A PRIVATE AS LONG AS YOU LIVE.
THAT'S WHAT YOU THINK.
5-23
Copr. 1946, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved.

TAKE IT EASY, LIKE ME. IT'S NOT HOW MUCH YOU DO. IT'S WHO YOU KNOW.

A FELLOW CAN GET FARTHER SITTING ~~~

WAKE UP, VIZAR, SOMETHINGS HAPPENED AT THE WALL! HURRY!
HUH ..
I FOUND HIM LYING THERE UNCONSCIOUS .. A DEATH'S HEAD ON HIS JAW ..!
ANOTHER ONE !!!
AND THAT DEAD CROCODILE ..
HE'S GOTTEN INTO THE CITY!
5-24
IT'S ALMOST DAWN. WE'LL HIDE IN THIS CELLAR UNTIL DARK.
5-25
POOR BABY .. PRINCESS .. IN HER OWN CITY .. AND SHE HAS TO HIDE IN A COALBIN
WHAT'S A COALBIN?
HE GOT INTO THE CITY WITH HER .. PAST MY SOLDIERS .. CROCODILES .. GUARDS ..
EASY .. VIZAR ..
EASY? WE'RE DEAD MEN. IF HE GETS HER TO THE PALACE! I'LL SEND OUT ALL MY TROOPS .. SEARCH EVERY CRANNY, EVERY CELLAR .. BOTH MUST BE DESTROYED!

IT IS SUICIDE TO START A CITY-WIDE SEARCH FOR THE PHANTOM AND PRINCESS VALERIE
WHY
IT'D CAUSE TOO MUCH EXCITEMENT THE WHOLE STORY WOULD COME OUT.
CORRECT. I MUST BE LOSING MY MIND.
AS IT IS, NO ONE - NOT EVEN THE PHANTOM - KNOWS YOU TRIED TO KILL VALERIE.
THAT WE TRIED.
Copr 1946, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved
CORRECT. AND WHEN THE PHANTOM BRINGS HER TO THE PALACE ~ HE'LL BRING HER TO YOU.
SO ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS WAIT.
5-27
I HAVE TO GO INTO ACTION ~ ~ VALERIE. BUT I MUST FIND A PLACE TO LEAVE YOU, JUST FOR A LITTLE WHILE.
WHY ARE YOU PUTTING COAL DUST ON ME?
JUST A DISGUISE, HONEY. NO ONE WOULD KNOW YOU ARE A PRINCESS, NOW.
PRINCESS VALERIE ORPHANS' HOME
5-28
THIS IS A LIKELY PLACE YOU'LL BE HERE ONLY A LITTLE WHILE.
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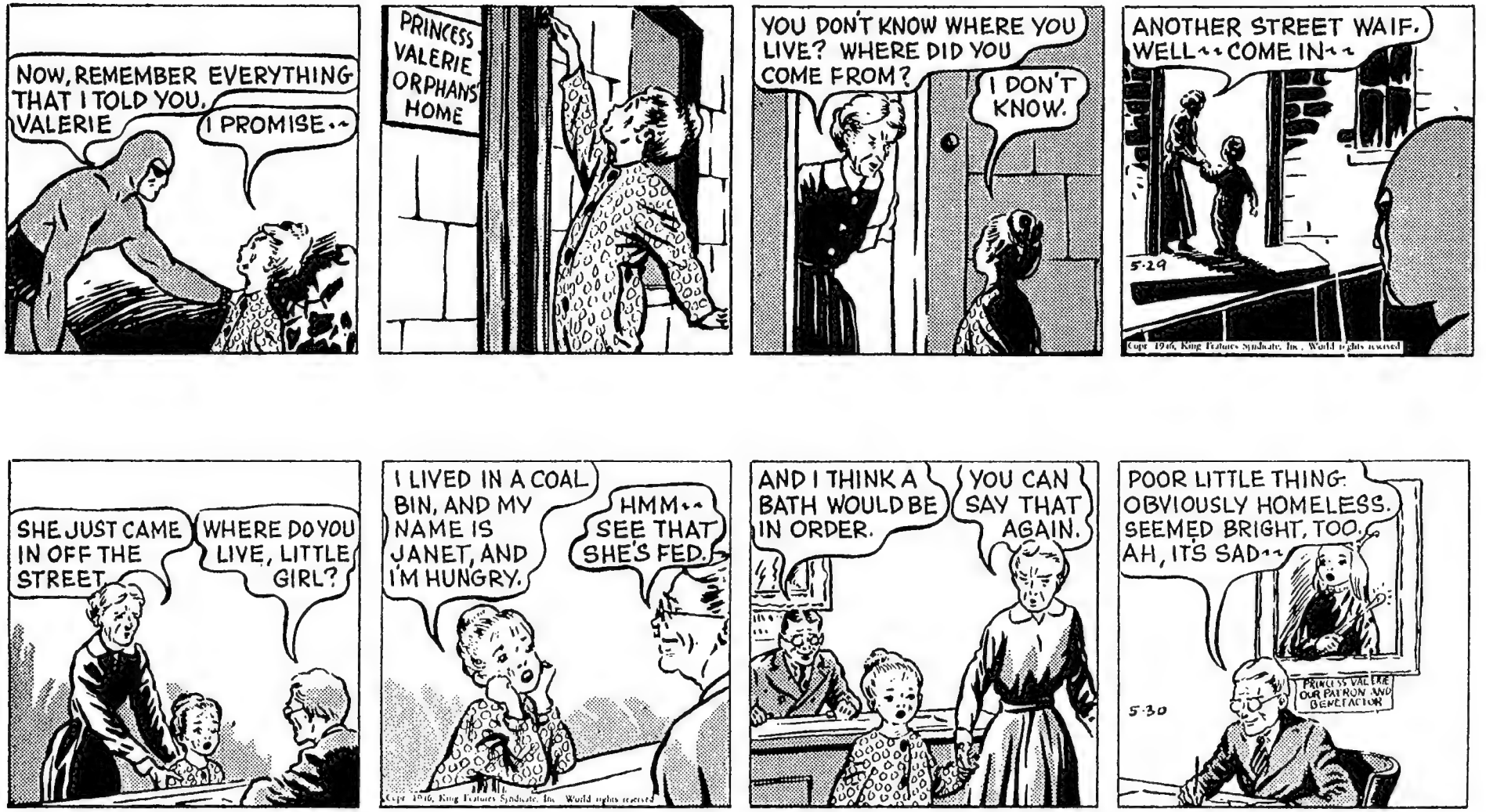
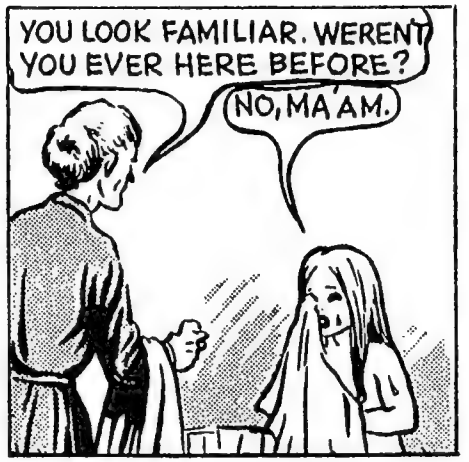

NOW, REMEMBER EVERYTHING THAT I TOLD YOU, VALERIE
I PROMISE...
PRINCESS VALERIE ORPHANS HOME
YOU DON'T KNOW WHERE YOU LIVE? WHERE DID YOU COME FROM?
I DON'T KNOW.
ANOTHER STREET WAIF. WELL... COME IN...
5-29
SHE JUST CAME IN OFF THE STREET
WHERE DO YOU LIVE, LITTLE GIRL?
I LIVED IN A COAL BIN, AND MY NAME IS JANET, AND I'M HUNGRY.
HMM... SEE THAT SHE'S FED.
AND I THINK A BATH WOULD BE IN ORDER.
YOU CAN SAY THAT AGAIN.
POOR LITTLE THING. OBVIOUSLY HOMELESS. SEEMED BRIGHT, TOO. AH, IT'S SAD...
PRINCESS VALERIE OUR PATRON AND BENEFACTOR
5-30

OUCH – PLEASE DON'T RUB SO HARD.
THIS COAL DUST'S SETTLED ALL THE WAY TO YOUR BONES.


YOU LOOK FAMILIAR. WEREN'T YOU EVER HERE BEFORE?
NO, MA'AM.

SAY YOUR PRAYERS. ALL OUR CHILDREN SAY A SPECIAL PRAYER FOR POOR PRINCESS VALERIE, WHO GAVE US THIS NICE HOME.
5-31

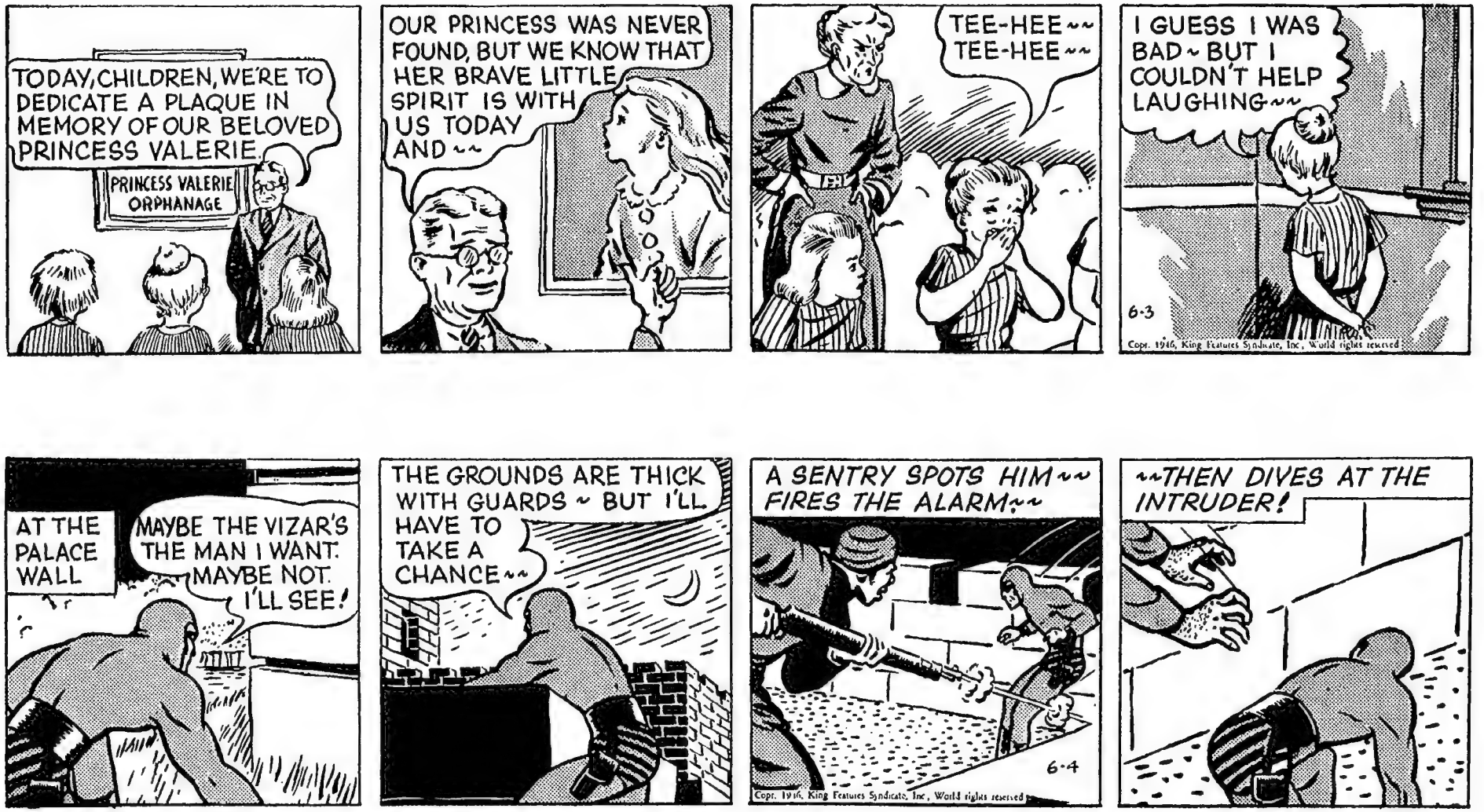
AND PLEASE SPECIALLY BLESS PRINCESS VALERIE, WHO IS SO NAUGHTY.
STOP GIGGLING! YOU'RE OLD ENOUGH TO KNOW BETTER.

AS A CITIZEN OF THE CAPITAL SLEEPS BLISSFULLY...

HE IS SUDDENLY AWAKENED.
WHO IS NEXT IN AUTHORITY TO THE WHITE RAJAH?
THE VIZAR- WHO- WHO..

WHY ARE YOU YELLING FOR THE POLICE?
A MASKED MAN WAS IN MY ROOM AND HE ASKED ME... LETS SEE, WHAT DID HE ASK ME?
6-1

THE VIZAR. MAYBE HE'S THE MAN I WANT... MAYBE NOT... WE'LL SEE.


TODAY, CHILDREN, WE'RE TO DEDICATE A PLAQUE IN MEMORY OF OUR BELOVED PRINCESS VALERIE
PRINCESS VALERIE ORPHANAGE
OUR PRINCESS WAS NEVER FOUND, BUT WE KNOW THAT HER BRAVE LITTLE SPIRIT IS WITH US TODAY AND ~~
TEE-HEE ~~ TEE-HEE ~~
I GUESS I WAS BAD ~ BUT I COULDN'T HELP LAUGHING ~~
6-3
Copr. 1946, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved
AT THE PALACE WALL
MAYBE THE VIZAR'S THE MAN I WANT. MAYBE NOT. I'LL SEE!
THE GROUNDS ARE THICK WITH GUARDS ~ BUT I'LL HAVE TO TAKE A CHANCE ~~
A SENTRY SPOTS HIM ~~ FIRES THE ALARM ~~
6-4
Copr. 1946, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved
~~THEN DIVES AT THE INTRUDER!

THE PHANTOM SWATS THE DIVING SENTRY~~

~THEN HURLS HIM AT THE ONRUSHING GUARDS~~
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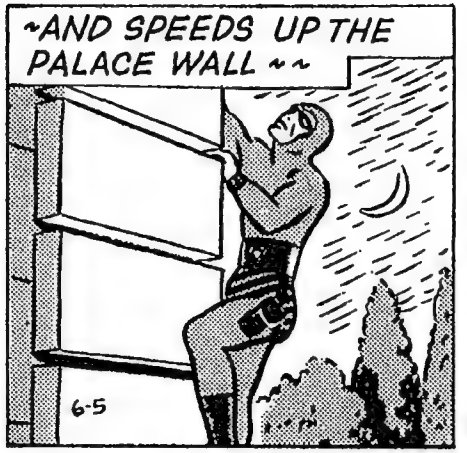
~AND SPEEDS UP THE PALACE WALL~~
6-5

WHICH WAY DID HE GO?
THAT WAY!
NO, THAT WAY!

WHAT'S GOING ON OUT HERE?
A STRANGER'S ON THE PALACE GROUNDS, EXCELLENCY-NO ORDINARY PROWLER, EITHER.

HE TOSSED THIS MAN THRU THE AIR~KNOCKING DOWN THE OTHER TWO LIKE BOWLING PINS!

THERE'S A QUEER MARK ON HIS JAW, SIRE. LOOKS LIKE A~~
6-6

DON'T SAY IT! I KNOW! IT MEANS~ HE'S HERE!
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INSIDE THE ROYAL PALACE OF VOLARA~~
WHERE ARE THE VIZAR'S CHAMBERS?
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GAGGED AND BOUND WITH LAUNDRY, THE INFORMER JOINS THE WET WASH~~ AS THE PHANTOM MOVES SILENTLY ON~~
6-7
DON'T WORRY, VIZAR! HE'LL NEVER GET INTO THE PALACE! IT'S IMPOSSIBLE!
DON'T EXCITE YOURSELF, VIZAR. HE CAN'T GET INTO THE PALACE. EVERY INCH IS GUARDED!
GIVE ME SOME WATER~
LOOK ~ ON THAT GLASS ~ MY OWN GLASS~!
COULDN'T GET INTO THE PALACE, EH? HE'S BEEN IN THIS VERY ROOM~~ MY ROOM!
6-8
THAT'S MY MAN!
Copr 1946 King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved.

THERE HE IS! AT THE VIZAR'S WINDOW!
DON'T SHOOT! THE VIZAR'S INSIDE!

THE PHANTOM RACES TO THE ROOF, HIDING AMONG THE SPIRES ~~
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HE'S ON THE ROOF. THE GUARDS ARE AFRAID TO GO AFTER HIM. ORDINARY MEN CAN'T HANDLE HIM. WHAT'LL WE DO?

GET MEN WHO ARE NOT ORDINARY! HELLO~ASK THE CAPTAIN OF THE DUNGEONS TO SEND UP THE **HAIRY TWINS!**
6-10

THE HAIRY TWINS ARE MONSTERS, KILLERS. THEY'RE AWAITING DEATH SENTENCES FOR PULLING MEN APART LIKE MATCHSTICKS!

THE VIZAR WANTS THE HAIRY TWINS BROUGHT UP TO HIM. TAKE 'EM.
ME AND WHO ELSE? I WON'T DO IT ALONE!

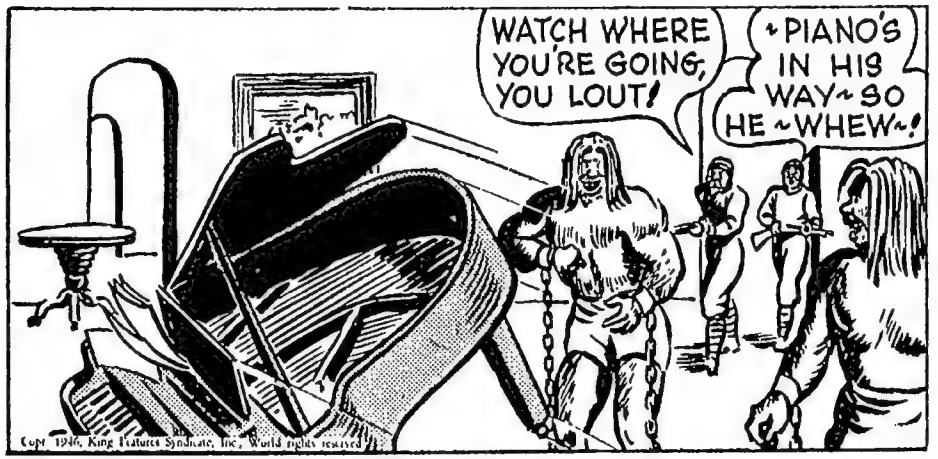
COME OUT, YOU TWO ~~ AND NO TRICKS! ~ GOLLY ~~ I EVEN HATE TO LOOK AT 'EM ~~
6-11

Copr. 1946, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved

IN THE PALACE DUNGEON~ THE HAIRY TWINS!
YOU'RE GOING UPSTAIRS~~ NO MONKEY BUSINESS~~
6-12
Copr. 1946, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved

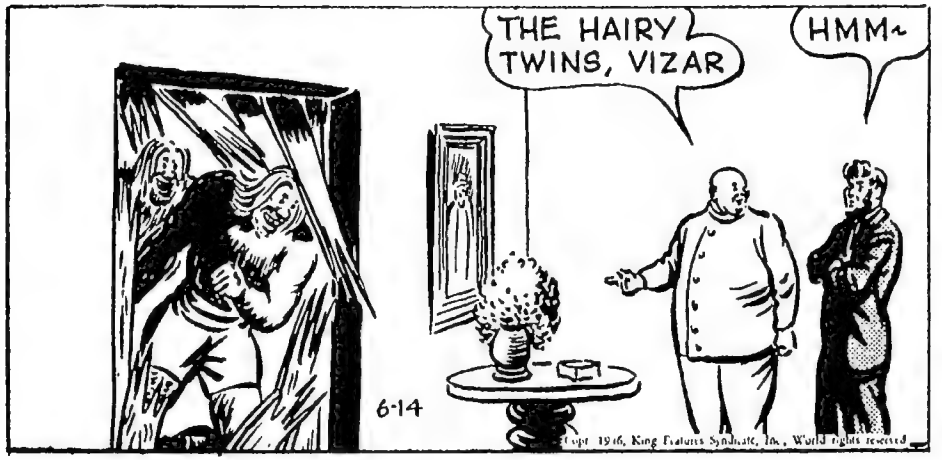
THEIR BESTIAL LAUGHTER FILLS THE DUNGEON LIKE THUNDER
WE GO, LITTLE MEN~ HO-HO~~

CAN'T TRUST 'EM AN INCH. THEY'D AS SOON TEAR A MAN APART AS LOOK AT 'IM.
WONDER WHAT THE VIZAR WANTS WITH THEM?


WATCH WHERE YOU'RE GOING, YOU LOUT!
~PIANO'S IN HIS WAY~ SO HE ~WHEW~!
Copr. 1946, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved

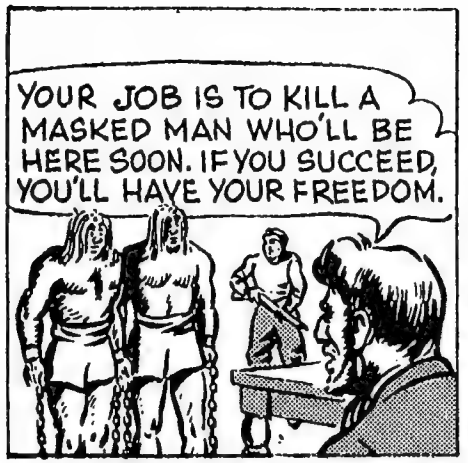
GO THRU THAT DOOR. HIS EXCELLENCY THE VIZAR IS WAITING FOR YOU!
6-13

THRU THE DOOR, HE SAID~~
WE GO~ HO~ HO~


THE HAIRY TWINS, VIZAR
HMM~
6-14
Copr. 1946, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved

A THOUSAND PARDONS, EXCELLENCY. I TOLD THEM TO GO THRU THAT DOOR, AND THEY~~
WENT THRU IT! VERY GOOD.

YOUR PERSONAL GUARDS AGAINST THE PHANTOM. THINK THEY'LL DO?
QUITE!


YOUR JOB IS TO KILL A MASKED MAN WHO'LL BE HERE SOON. IF YOU SUCCEED, YOU'LL HAVE YOUR FREEDOM.

IF YOU REFUSE, YOU'LL BE SHOT DOWN RIGHT NOW! WHAT IS YOUR CHOICE?
6-15
Copr. 1946 King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved

WE KILL HIM~~
LIKE THIS.

THAT WILL BE QUITE SATISFACTORY.

UNCHAIN THE HAIRY TWINS, CAPTAIN
UNCHAIN THEM, SIR? IS IT SAFE?

QUITE! I'VE PROMISED THEM A MAN TO MURDER ~ AND FREEDOM AS A REWARD. THEY'RE AS HAPPY AS BABIES.
6-17

ARE YOU REALLY GOING TO FREE THOSE MONSTERS?
AFTER THEY'VE FINISHED THE PHANTOM, THEY'LL BE SHOT DOWN LIKE THE MAD DOGS THEY ARE.

WAIT IN THERE. BE READY WHEN I GIVE THE SIGNAL!

THE DOOR THAT THE TWINS BROKE HAS BEEN REPLACED.
GOOD. LEAVE ME NOW, BELI.

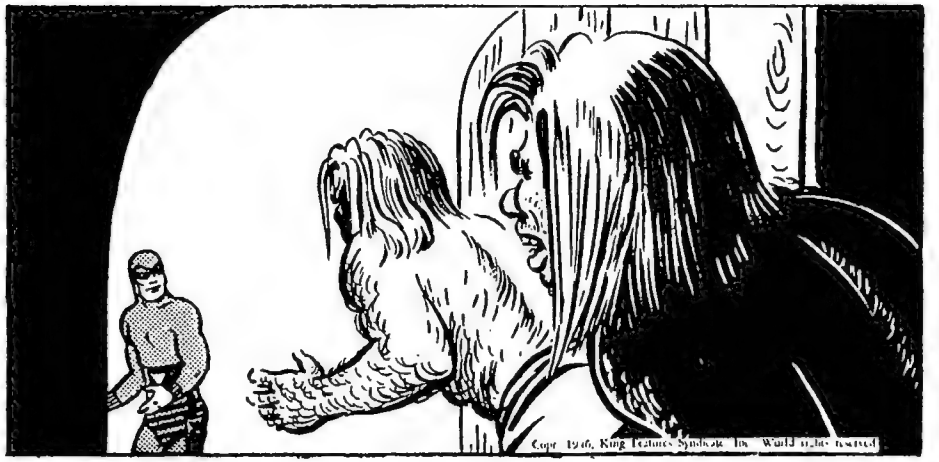
I WILL WAIT FOR THE PHANTOM TO COME.
6-18

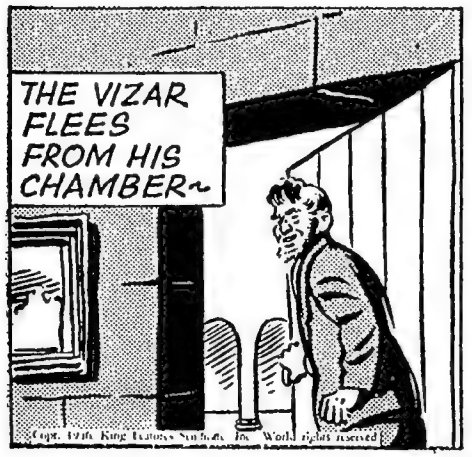
NOW ~ TO FORCE THE TRUTH FROM THE VIZAR ~ AND THEN SEE THE WHITE RAJAH!

HE'S COMING~ I CAN HEAR HIM AT THE WINDOW~~
Copr. 1946, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved.
6-19
SO~SO~YOU'RE THE PHANTOM! YOU DON'T LOOK SO BIG~~
YOU KNOW WHY I'M HERE, VIZAR?
ABOUT PRINCESS VALERIE, NO DOUBT.
YOU ADMIT THE WHOLE THING! YOU ARE A COOL ONE!
THE FAMOUS PHANTOM~~ FACING AN UNARMED MAN! DO YOU DARE PUT AWAY YOUR GUNS?
FIGHT BAREHANDED! IF YOU WIN, I'LL CONFESS ALL TO THE WHITE RAJAH! OTHERWISE, YOU'LL NEVER FORCE A CONFESSION FROM ME!
6-20
GOOD!
PUT YOUR GUNS THERE.
THE TRAP DOOR LEADS TO THE CELLAR~ THAT TAKES CARE OF THE GUNS~~!
Copr. 1946 King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved.

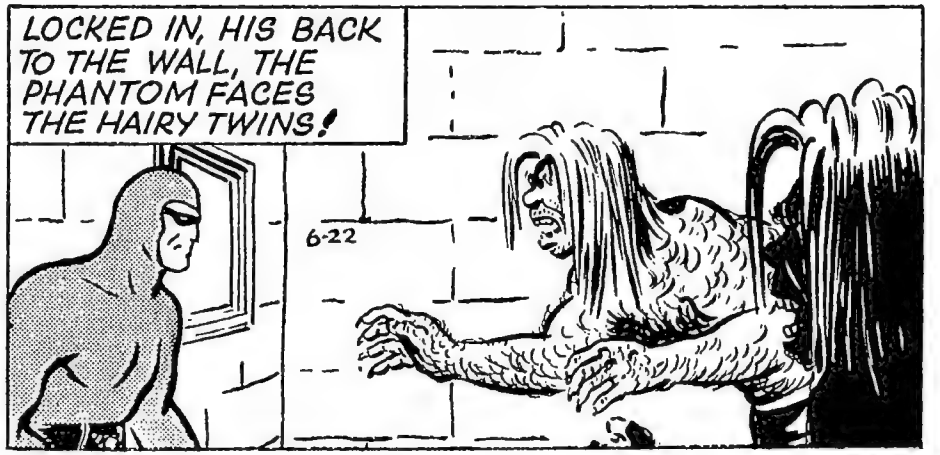
WE'VE THROWN AWAY MY GUNS. NOW PUT UP YOUR HANDS AND FIGHT~
WE AGREED YOU SHOULD FIGHT BARE-HANDED~

~~BUT NOT WITH ME! COME OUT, TWINS!
6-21




THE VIZAR FLEES FROM HIS CHAMBER~

THAT LOCKS THEM IN SOLIDLY - FOR A FIGHT TO A QUICK AND MESSY FINISH!


LOCKED IN, HIS BACK TO THE WALL, THE PHANTOM FACES THE HAIRY TWINS!
6-22

ONE OF THE HUGE, HAIRY TWINS CATCHES THE PHANTOM BY SURPRISE.

AS HE TRIES TO GET AWAY, THE OTHER MONSTER LANDS WITH BOTH FEET~
6-24

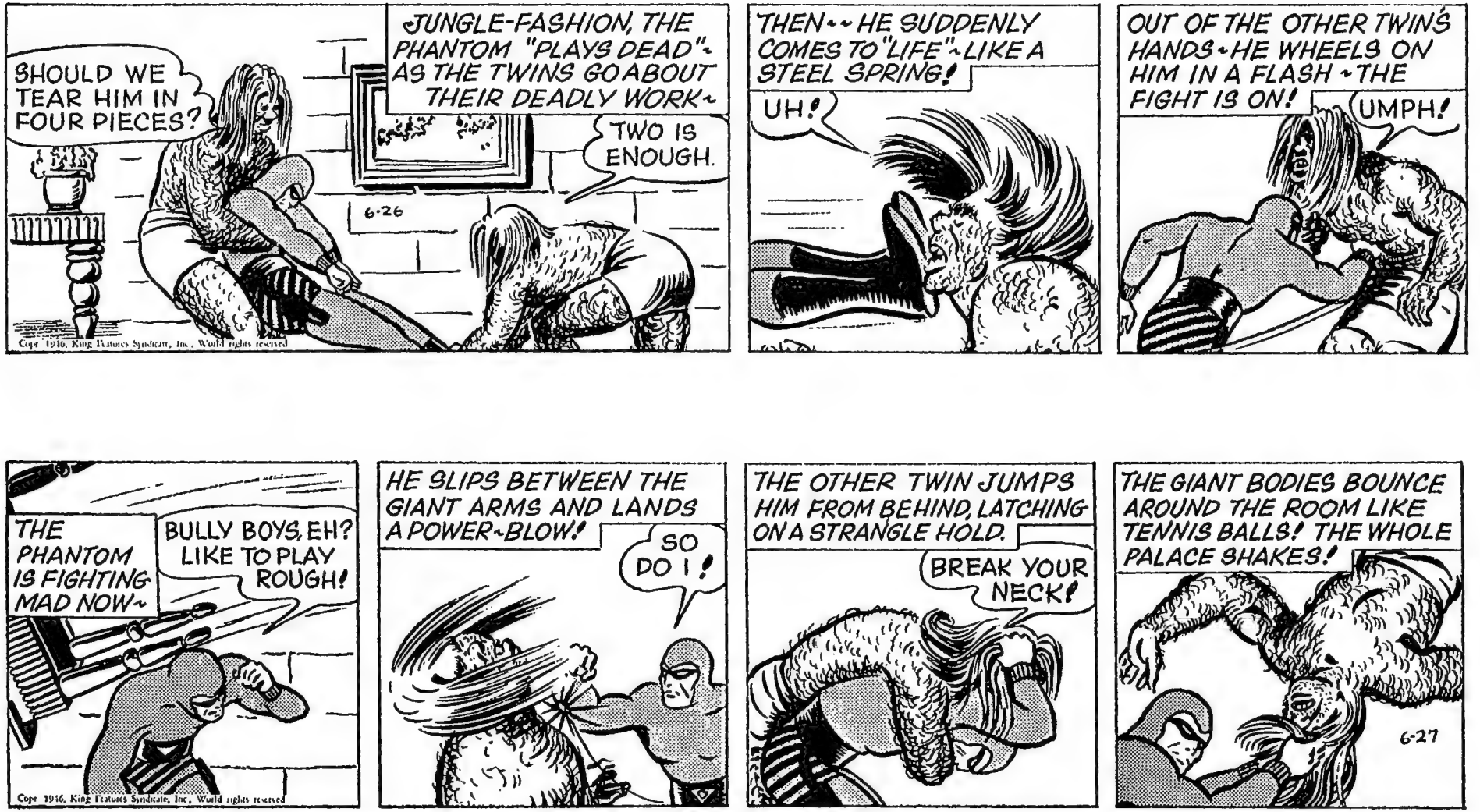
FEEL THE WALLS SHAKE! IT WON'T BE LONG!

IN THE VIZAR'S CHAMBERS-
THIS FELLA EASY!
PICK UP~ THROW!
Copr 1946, King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved

~THE PHANTOM TAKES A BEATING AT THE HANDS OF THE HAIRY TWINS.

STUNNED BY THE VICIOUS ATTACK~ HE "PLAYS DEAD"~ JUNGLE-FASHION ~ TO CATCH HIS BREATH~~
6-25

TAKE LEGS. WE TEAR HIM IN TWO~ LIKE PIECE OF PAPER!


SHOULD WE TEAR HIM IN FOUR PIECES?
JUNGLE-FASHION, THE PHANTOM "PLAYS DEAD"~ AS THE TWINS GO ABOUT THEIR DEADLY WORK~
TWO IS ENOUGH.
6-26
Copr 1946, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved
THEN~~ HE SUDDENLY COMES TO "LIFE"~ LIKE A STEEL SPRING!
UH!
OUT OF THE OTHER TWIN'S HANDS~ HE WHEELS ON HIM IN A FLASH ~ THE FIGHT IS ON!
UMPH!
THE PHANTOM IS FIGHTING MAD NOW~
BULLY BOYS, EH? LIKE TO PLAY ROUGH!
Copr 1946, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved
HE SLIPS BETWEEN THE GIANT ARMS AND LANDS A POWER~BLOW!
SO DO I!
THE OTHER TWIN JUMPS HIM FROM BEHIND, LATCHING ON A STRANGLE HOLD.
BREAK YOUR NECK!
THE GIANT BODIES BOUNCE AROUND THE ROOM LIKE TENNIS BALLS! THE WHOLE PALACE SHAKES!
6-27

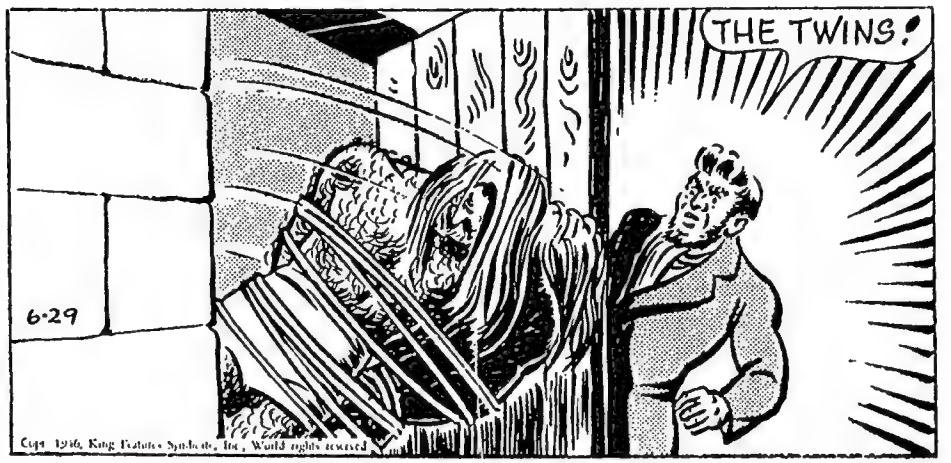
IT IS AN EPIC BATTLE~ JUNGLE POETS WILL SING ABOUT IT FOR A THOUSAND YEARS~~
Copr. 1946, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved

HOW THE MONSTROUS, HAIRY TWINS OF VOLARA~~ WHO TORE LIONS APART WITH THEIR BARE HANDS~

~~WERE THRASHED WITHIN AN INCH OF THEIR VICIOUS LIVES BY THE "GHOST WHO WALKS," AND THE POETS WILL SING: "HERE, VERILY, WAS A MAN!"
6-28

ALL IS QUIET NOW~ THE PHANTOM IS ~FINISHED! BE READY WITH YOUR GUNS~

TO SHOOT DOWN THE TWINS I'VE NO MORE NEED FOR THEM~~


THE TWINS!
6-29
Copr. 1946, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved

HE BEAT THOSE MONSTERS~ SINGLEHANDED~
HE'S NOT HUMAN~
HE'S GONE~ TO THE WHITE RAJAH!
WHICH MEANS~ OUR DEATHS! UNLESS WE ACT FAST!
WHAT CAN WE DO?
KILL THE WHITE RAJAH!
7-1
Copr 1936, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved.
YOU'RE MAD! IT'S IMPOSSIBLE!
OUR ONLY CHANCE! DISMISS THE GUARDS! WE'LL KILL HIM OURSELVES!
THE WHITE RAJAH OF VOLARA.
WHO'S THAT?
I'M A FRIEND OF YOUR GRANDDAUGHTER, PRINCESS VALERIE. SHE'S ALIVE~~
Copr 1936, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved.
SHE'S DEAD~ YOU'VE COME TO TORMENT ME~ YOU'RE AN IMPOSTOR~ GUARDS~ GUARDS~~
7-2
SHH~ DON'T EXCITE YOURSELF. YOU'RE ILL~~ BELIEVE ME! SHE'S ALIVE~IN THIS CITY!

IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE~ VALERIE~ ALIVE
WAIT~ SOMETHING'S WRONG, RAJAH!
YOUR GUARDS DIDN'T COME WHEN YOU CALLED! HMM~ THEY'RE GONE! THE VIZAR'S WORK!
7-3
Copr. 1946 King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved.
MY VIZAR! I'LL CUT HIM TO BITS! I'LL~ UH~~
EASY, RAJAH. YOU'RE IN BAD SHAPE.
I DON'T LIKE THIS, VIZAR.
QUIET, FAT FOOL! WE'LL KILL THE RAJAH AND BLAME IT ON THE PHANTOM! WHO'LL DOUBT US?
SHH~ THE RAJAH'S ASLEEP~ READY~ WE STRIKE TOGETHER!
7-4
Copr. 1946 King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved.
YOU MEAN~ YOU HANG TOGETHER!
THE PHANTOM!
TWO HEADS ARE BETTER THAN ONE!
SO~ YOU SNIVELING, MURDERING HYENA! PREPARE TO MEET YOUR MAKER!
RAJAH~!

ADMIT THAT YOU TRIED TO KILL ME AND MY GRAND-DAUGHTER~~ OR I'LL LOP OFF YOUR LYING HEADS!
WE ADMIT NOTHING!
LET ME HANDLE THIS, RAJAH.
7-5
Copr. 1946, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved.
TELL THE TRUTH, OR I'LL DRIVE YOUR HEAD THRU THE WALL!
I DID IT~~ I DID IT~~ I DID IT~~
I THOUGHT MY METHODS WERE ROUGH
I'M VERY FOND OF VALERIE, RAJAH. THAT VERMIN GOT ME RILED.
WHERE YOU GOIN', SMARTY?
OH~~
DON'T YOU TRIP ME!
OUCH!
Copr. 1946 King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved.
I SAW YOU PUSH HIM! APOLOGIZE!
NO MA'AM HE WAS NAUGHTY!
7-6
MAYBE, WHEN I'M A BIG GIRL, I'LL UNDERSTAND HOW THESE THINGS HAPPEN.

THE RAJAH'S RECOVERED. HE'S COMING HERE ~~ AN OFFICIAL VISIT!
GET CLEANED UP, CHILDREN. SPICK-AND-SPAN! HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS IS COMING TODAY!
YOU'VE BEEN A BAD GIRL. SO YOU CAN'T SEE THE RAJAH. GO ON WITH YOUR WORK.
7-8
YES, MAAM.
MY GOODNESS! I'M SO EXCITED! THIS IS THE FIRST ROYAL VISIT IN YEARS!
A GREAT DAY AT THE ORPHANAGE ~ THE VISIT OF THE WHITE RAJAH!
YOUR MOST ROYAL AND ESTEEMED HIGHNESS ~
WE ARE GREATLY HONORED ~ EXCELLENCY ~
VALERIE!
7-9
HELLO, GRAMPY. I CAN'T TALK TO YOU UNTIL I FINISH THIS ~ BUT IT WON'T TAKE LONG.

YOUR HIGHNESS, WE NEVER DREAMED THAT SHE WAS ~~
OF COURSE YOU DIDN'T. ALL IS FORGIVEN! MY PRINCESS IS HOME!

PRINCESS VALERIE IS ALIVE! THE NEWS FLASHES AROUND THE WORLD. AND VOLARA CELEBRATES FOR DAYS!

ALL CELEBRATE, SAVE VIZAR AND BELI, WHO ARE DRAGGED OFF TO JAIL.
7-10
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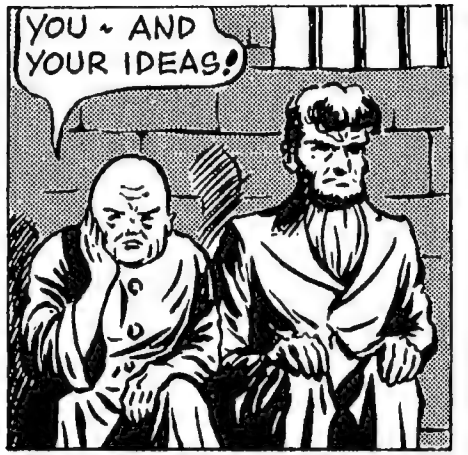

YOU ~ AND YOUR IDEAS!

~AND THEN THE CANNIBULLS PUT HONEY AND ME IN A BIG POT ~ BUT HE CAME AND HIT THEM ~

~AND THEN WE SWAM IN THE WATER AND THE CROCODILES TRIED TO EAT US ~~
ARE YOU MAKING THIS UP, DARLING?

I'M AFRAID IT'S ALL TRUE. WE HAD SOME CLOSE SHAVES.
THERE'S NO WAY I CAN THANK YOU. I ~ I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY.
7-11
Copr. 1946 King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved

HIGHNESS, YOUR RECOVERY HAS BEEN MIRACULOUS
THIS WAS ALL I NEEDED, DOCTOR. THE BEST MEDICINE IN THE WORLD.

BILLY! BILLY! I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU IN SUCH A LONG TIME!

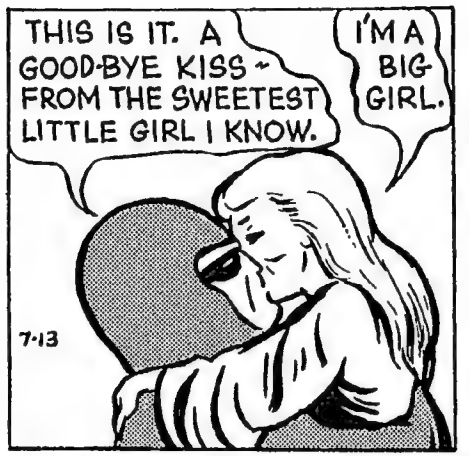
BILLY, THIS IS HONEY. LOOK~ THEY'RE MAKING FRIENDS. BILLY WAS MY BESTEST FRIEND.
7-12

BUT NOW YOU'RE MY BESTEST FRIEND. WILL YOU MARRY ME?
HMM~~ YOU HAVE TO GO TO KINDERGARDEN FIRST.

QUITE A GIRL!
WISH I HAD ONE LIKE HER. SORT OF MAKES A FELLOW WANT TO SETTLE DOWN, AND ALL THAT.
Copr. 1946, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved

SIR, I AM SERIOUS. I OFFER YOU HALF MY KINGDOM AND FORTUNE FOR BRINGING VALERIE BACK TO ME.

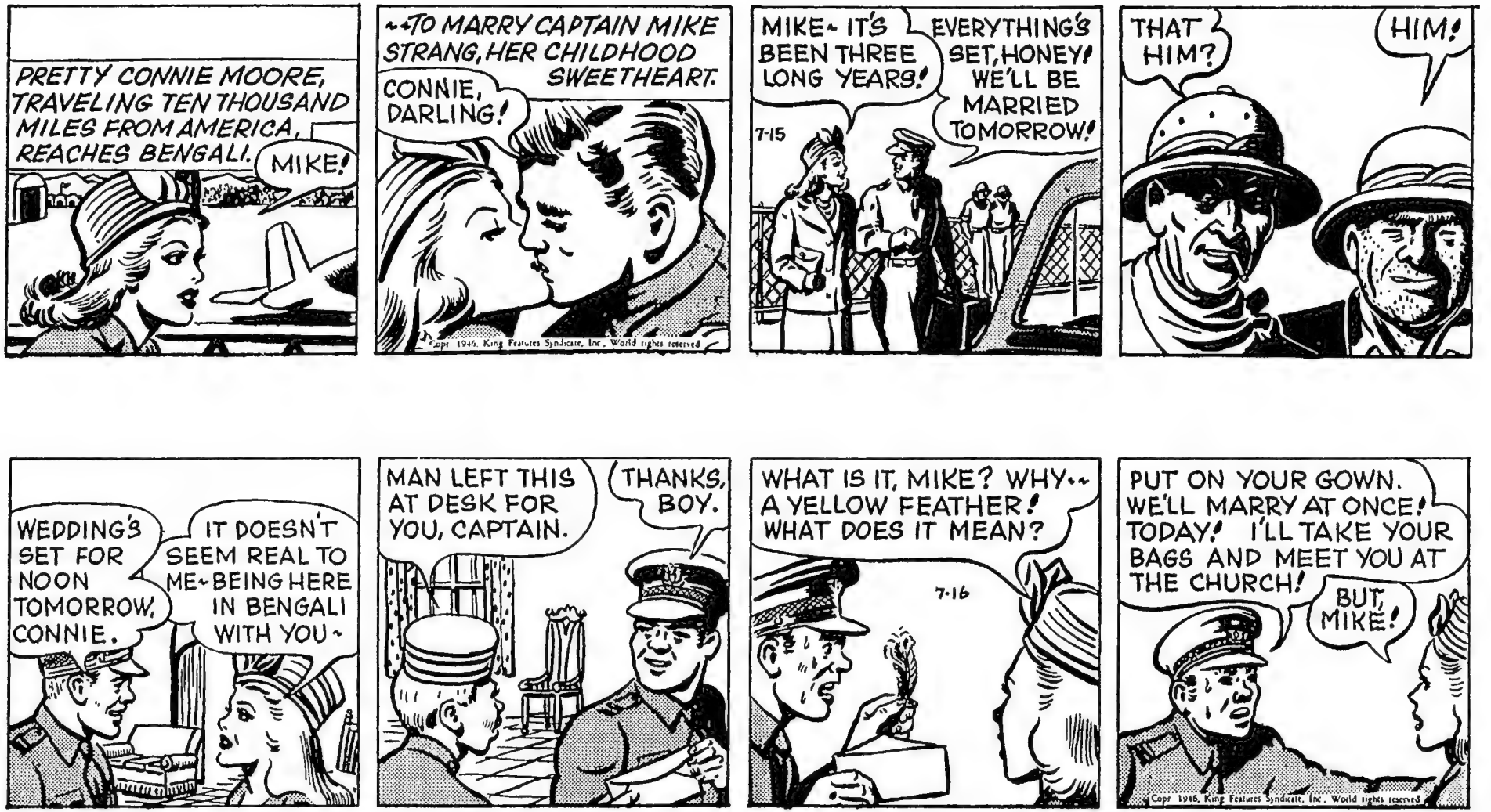
NO, THANKS, RAJAH. I LIKE TO STAY FOOT-LOOSE. BUT THERE IS ONE FAVOR I ASK.
ANY-THING.


THIS IS IT. A GOOD-BYE KISS ~ FROM THE SWEETEST LITTLE GIRL I KNOW.
I'M A BIG GIRL.
7-13

GOOD-BYE ~ AND GOOD LUCK, BIG GIRL.

Chapter Two: Queen Asta of Trondelay

the PHANTOM®

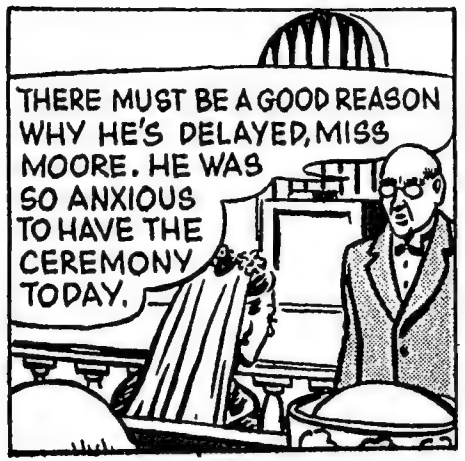

PRETTY CONNIE MOORE, TRAVELING TEN THOUSAND MILES FROM AMERICA, REACHES BENGALI.
MIKE!
--TO MARRY CAPTAIN MIKE STRANG, HER CHILDHOOD SWEETHEART.
CONNIE, DARLING!
Copr 1946, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved
MIKE- IT'S BEEN THREE LONG YEARS!
EVERYTHING'S SET, HONEY! WE'LL BE MARRIED TOMORROW!
7-15
THAT HIM?
HIM!
WEDDING'S SET FOR NOON TOMORROW, CONNIE.
IT DOESN'T SEEM REAL TO ME- BEING HERE IN BENGALI WITH YOU-
MAN LEFT THIS AT DESK FOR YOU, CAPTAIN.
THANKS, BOY.
WHAT IS IT, MIKE? WHY-- A YELLOW FEATHER! WHAT DOES IT MEAN?
7-16
PUT ON YOUR GOWN. WE'LL MARRY AT ONCE! TODAY! I'LL TAKE YOUR BAGS AND MEET YOU AT THE CHURCH!
BUT, MIKE!
Copr 1946, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved

STRANGE~ MIKE GOT SO EXCITED WHEN HE SAW THAT YELLOW FEATHER~ INSISTED THE WEDDING SHOULD BE AT ONCE ~~

WONDER WHAT THE FEATHER MEANT? SOME PRACTICAL JOKE, I GUESS.

MISS MOORE? I'M DOCTOR MILTON. I'M TO OFFICIATE. PLEASE STEP IN MY STUDY. CAPTAIN STRANG ISN'T HERE YET.

I'VE WAITED~ TWO HOURS! WHERE IS HE?
NO ANSWER AT HIS ROOMS. HE MUST BE ON HIS WAY.
7-17
Copr. 1946, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved.


THERE MUST BE A GOOD REASON WHY HE'S DELAYED, MISS MOORE. HE WAS SO ANXIOUS TO HAVE THE CEREMONY TODAY.

YOU KNOW HOW IT IS ~ WHEN THEY HAVEN'T SEEN EACH OTHER FOR SO MANY YEARS ~~
THE MAN TAKES ANOTHER LOOK AND CHANGES HIS MIND.

7-18
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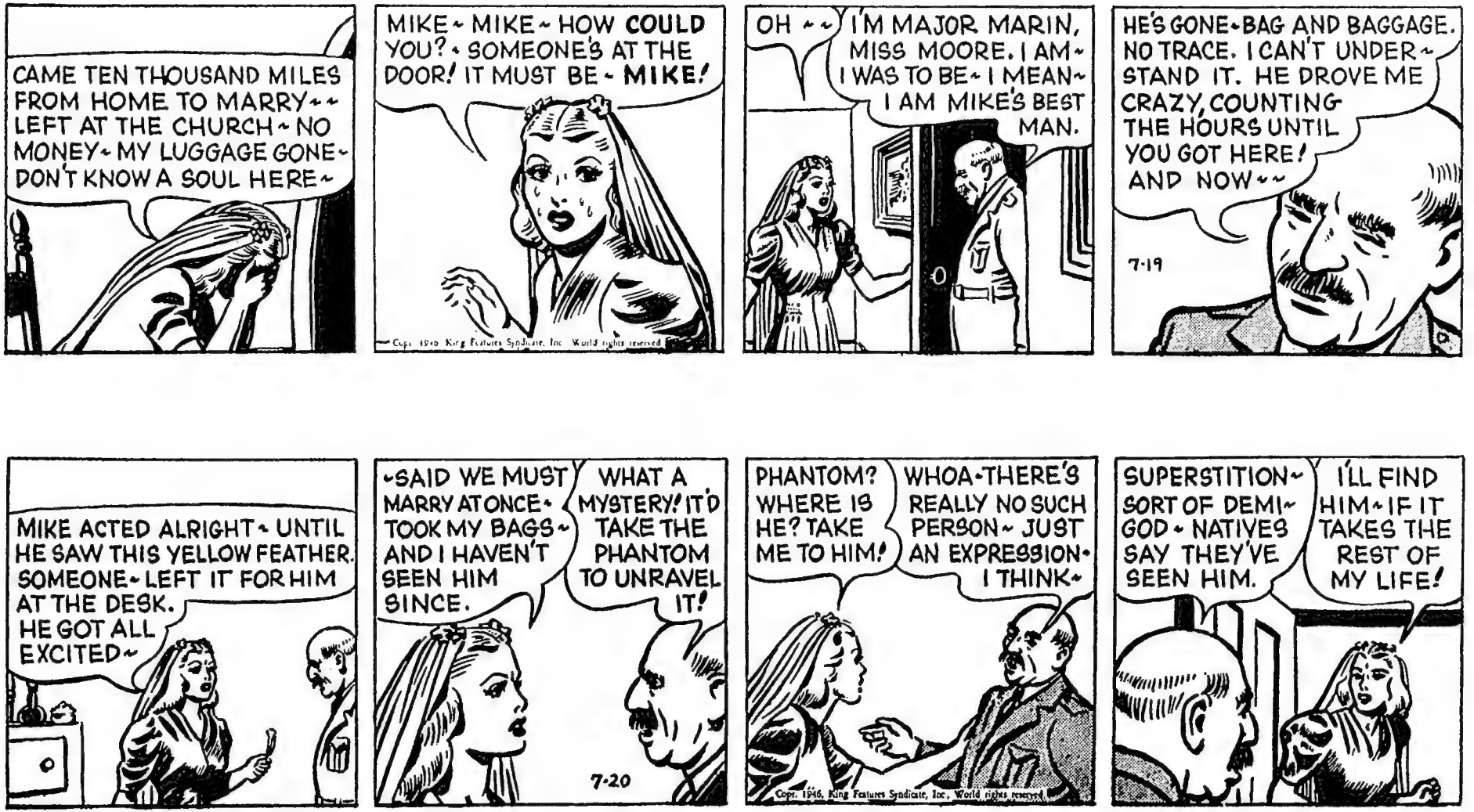
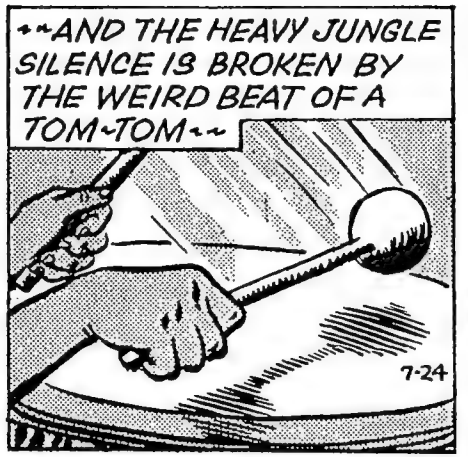

CAME TEN THOUSAND MILES FROM HOME TO MARRY~~ LEFT AT THE CHURCH~ NO MONEY~ MY LUGGAGE GONE~ DON'T KNOW A SOUL HERE~
MIKE~ MIKE~ HOW COULD YOU?~ SOMEONE'S AT THE DOOR! IT MUST BE~ MIKE!
Copr. 1940 King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved.
OH ~~
I'M MAJOR MARIN, MISS MOORE. I AM~ I WAS TO BE~ I MEAN~ I AM MIKE'S BEST MAN.
HE'S GONE~BAG AND BAGGAGE. NO TRACE. I CAN'T UNDER~ STAND IT. HE DROVE ME CRAZY, COUNTING THE HOURS UNTIL YOU GOT HERE! AND NOW~~
7-19
MIKE ACTED ALRIGHT~ UNTIL HE SAW THIS YELLOW FEATHER. SOMEONE~ LEFT IT FOR HIM AT THE DESK. HE GOT ALL EXCITED~
~SAID WE MUST MARRY AT ONCE~ TOOK MY BAGS~ AND I HAVEN'T SEEN HIM SINCE.
WHAT A MYSTERY! IT'D TAKE THE PHANTOM TO UNRAVEL IT!
7-20
PHANTOM? WHERE IS HE? TAKE ME TO HIM!
WHOA~THERE'S REALLY NO SUCH PERSON~ JUST AN EXPRESSION~ I THINK~
Copr. 1946, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved.
SUPERSTITION~ SORT OF DEMI~ GOD~ NATIVES SAY THEY'VE SEEN HIM.
I'LL FIND HIM~IF IT TAKES THE REST OF MY LIFE!

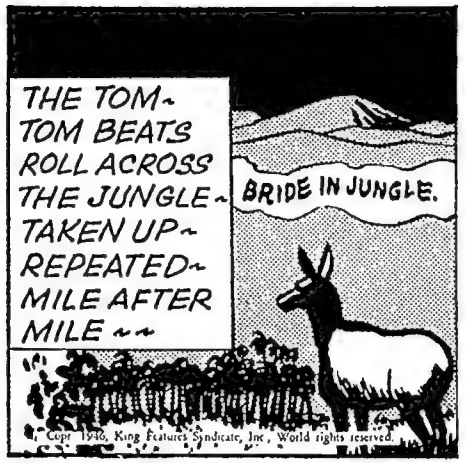
CONNIE, THIS IS MADNESS! YOU CAN'T GO RIDING OFF INTO THE JUNGLE, SEARCHING FOR A NON-EXISTENT PHANTOM!
AND IN YOUR BRIDAL DRESS.
I HAVEN'T GOT ANY OTHER CLOTHES. MIKE TOOK MY LUGGAGE. DON'T YOU SEE? I'VE GOT TO FIND THE PHANTOM~
SOMETHING TERRIBLE MUST HAVE HAPPENED TO MIKE! THERE'S NO TIME TO LOSE! IF THE PHANTOM CAN HELP HIM~~
I SHOULDN'T HAVE LET HER GO! BUT SHE WAS HYSTERICAL. AN HOUR'S RIDE IN THE WOODS ~AND SHE'LL BE BACK~~
7-22
Copr. 1946, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved.
I'VE GOT TO FIND THE PHANTOM~ THEN HE'LL BE ABLE TO FIND MIKE~
Copr. 1946, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved.
OH~ I'VE RIDDEN FOR HOURS ~THE HORSE IS TIRED~ AND SO AM I~~
OH~~
7-23
AND CONNIE, STARTING TO CALM DOWN, REALIZES SHE IS STRANDED IN THE HEART OF A HOSTILE JUNGLE!
NO~NO~COME BACK~ PLEASE COME BACK~

I'M LOST~ I'LL KEEP WALKING ~ I'LL SEE SOMEONE~ I MUST SEE SOMEONE~

THE NIGHT IS DARK~BUT THERE ARE EYES THAT WATCH~~


~~AND THE HEAVY JUNGLE SILENCE IS BROKEN BY THE WEIRD BEAT OF A TOM~TOM~~
7-24

THAT SOUND~A DRUM~OR SOMETHING. THEY SAID~~ IF I'M IN THE JUNGLE, THE PHANTOM WILL KNOW IT~ I HOPE SO~OH, I HOPE SO~~
Copr 1946, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved


THE TOM~ TOM BEATS ROLL ACROSS THE JUNGLE~ TAKEN UP~ REPEATED~ MILE AFTER MILE~~
BRIDE IN JUNGLE.
Copr 1946, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved.

~AND FROM THE DEPTHS OF THE JUNGLE ~FROM THE DEEP WOODS ~COMES THE REPLY~~
GUARD HER. BRING HER TO ME. THE GHOST WHO WALKS
7-25

CONNIE RUNS FRANTICALLY~ NOT KNOWING THE MEAN~ ING OF THE TOM~TOMS~
THOSE DRUM BEATS~WHERE AM I~~?

HUNGRY EYES WATCH HER~ ~STEELY MUSCLES TIGHTEN~ READY TO LEAP~~

AS THE LEOPARD LEAPS~ AN ARROW PINGS OUT OF THE DARKNESS~

CONNIE RUNS ON~UNAWARE OF THE LEOPARD OR THE ARROW~~
THE PHANTOM MUST FIND ME~ HE MUST~ HE MUST~
7-26
Copr 1946 King Features Syndicate, Inc World rights reserved.

~BUT I CAN'T RUN ANY FARTHER. I'M TIRED~SO TIRED~~

AND AS SHE SLEEPS~

AS CONNIE SLEEPS~ A TIGER CREEPS TOWARD HER~THEN A SPEAR SPEEDS THRU THE DARKNESS~~

SILENTLY, THE CARCASS IS DRAGGED AWAY~SHE SLEEPS ON~UNAWARE~~

DAYLIGHT! AH. I FEEL BETTER, AFTER A GOOD SLEEP. IF I ONLY HAD SOMETHING TO EAT~~
7-27
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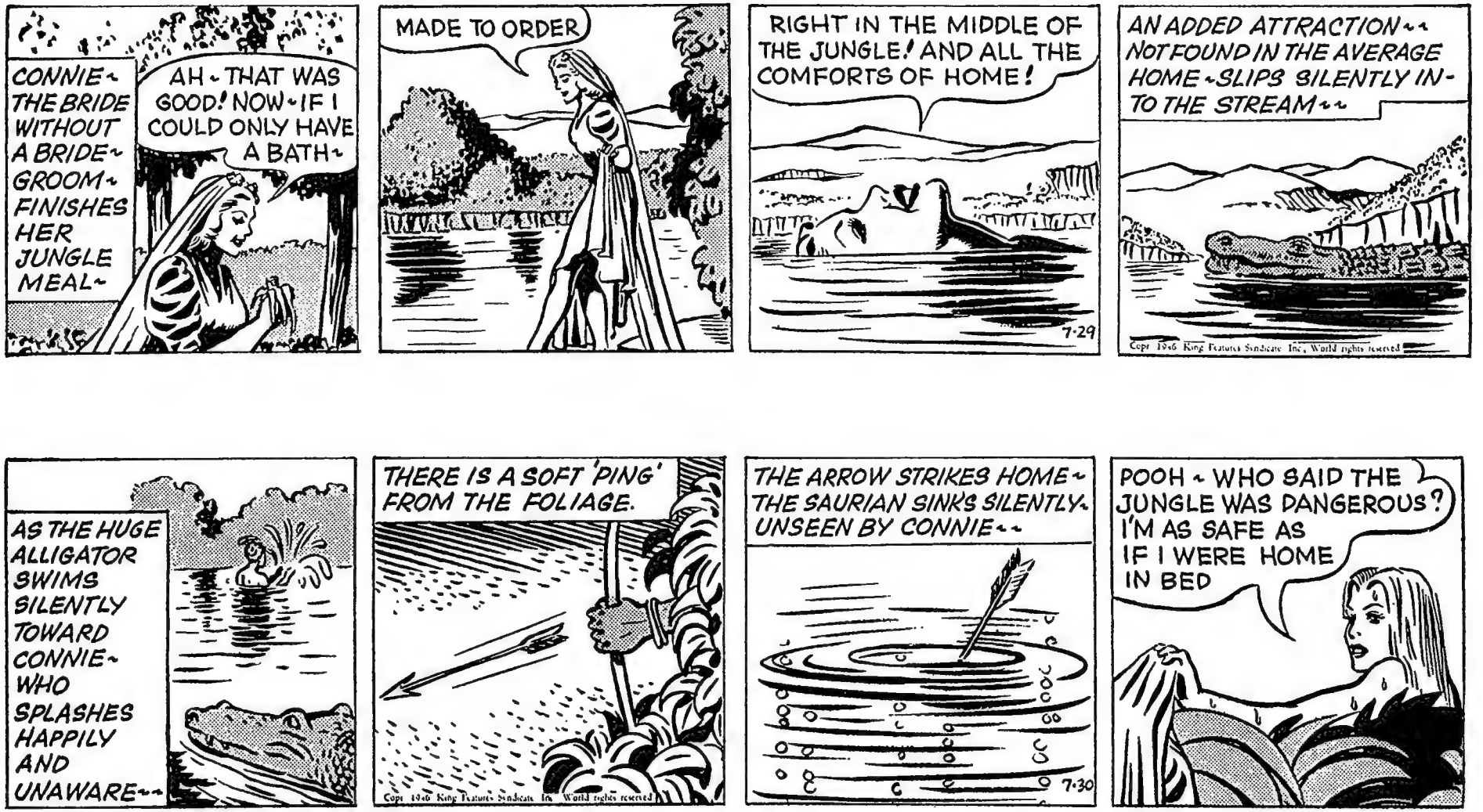
FRUIT! WHERE DID THAT COME FROM? IT MUST HAVE BEEN HERE LAST NIGHT~ SOMEONE DROPPED IT~NO DOUBT. WHAT LUCK!


CONNIE~ THE BRIDE WITHOUT A BRIDE~ GROOM~ FINISHES HER JUNGLE MEAL~
AH~ THAT WAS GOOD! NOW~ IF I COULD ONLY HAVE A BATH~
MADE TO ORDER
RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE JUNGLE! AND ALL THE COMFORTS OF HOME!
7-29
AN ADDED ATTRACTION~~ NOT FOUND IN THE AVERAGE HOME~ SLIPS SILENTLY IN-TO THE STREAM~~
Copr 1946 King Features Syndicate Inc, World rights reserved
AS THE HUGE ALLIGATOR SWIMS SILENTLY TOWARD CONNIE~ WHO SPLASHES HAPPILY AND UNAWARE~~
THERE IS A SOFT 'PING' FROM THE FOLIAGE.
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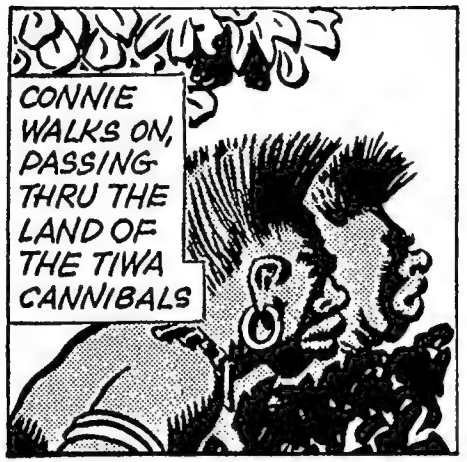
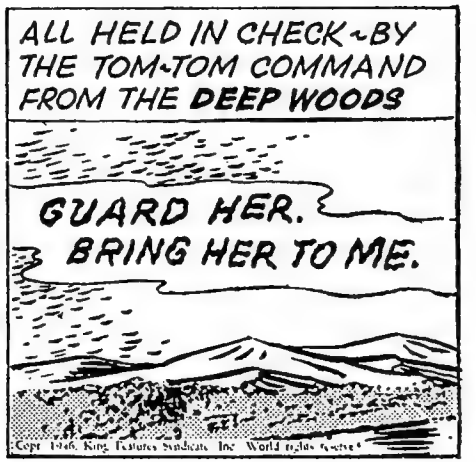
THE ARROW STRIKES HOME~ THE SAURIAN SINKS SILENTLY~ UNSEEN BY CONNIE~~
7-30
POOH ~ WHO SAID THE JUNGLE WAS DANGEROUS? I'M AS SAFE AS IF I WERE HOME IN BED


CONNIE WALKS ON, PASSING THRU THE LAND OF THE TIWA CANNIBALS

OH, MY FEET. THESE HIGH HEELS WEREN'T MADE FOR HIKING. I'LL GO BARE-FOOTED.
7-31

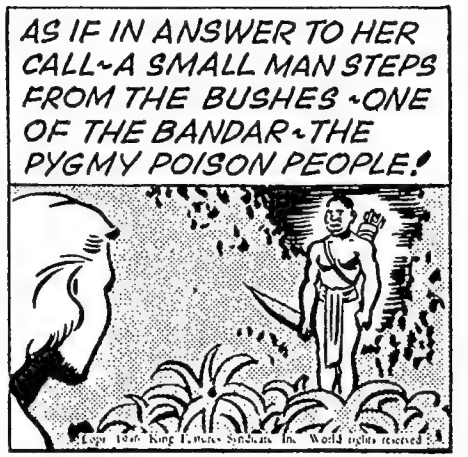
ON~THRU THE TERRITORY OF THE OSMA HEAD-HUNTERS~ THRU JUNGLE DANGERS AN ARMY COULD NOT BRAVE~~
WILL I EVER FIND THE PHANTOM? THOSE DRUMBEATS~!


ALL HELD IN CHECK~BY THE TOM-TOM COMMAND FROM THE DEEP WOODS
GUARD HER. BRING HER TO ME.

A SECOND NIGHT IN THE JUNGLE~ AND NOW CONNIE IS SCARED~
IT'S DARK~IT'S SO DARK~I'M ALL ALONE~

THOSE DRUMBEATS~THEY NEVER STOP! WHERE AM I? WHAT A FOOL I WAS TO COME HERE~ ALONE~~

PHANTOM ~ PHANTOM~ WHERE ARE YOU~~? PHANTOM~PHANTOM~~
8-1


AS IF IN ANSWER TO HER CALL~A SMALL MAN STEPS FROM THE BUSHES~ONE OF THE BANDAR~THE PYGMY POISON PEOPLE!

HE SEEMS TO ~ WANT ME TO FOLLOW HIM ~ HE CAN'T BE THE PHANTOM ~ SHOULD I FOLLOW ~?
8-2
THO' SHE DOESN'T KNOW IT, CONNIE IS ENTERING THE MYSTERIOUS AND DREADED DEEP WOODS ~~
HE SEEMS ~ FRIENDLY ~ I'D BETTER GO WITH HIM ~
SHE FOLLOWS, THRU TWISTING RAVINES, DENSE THICKETS ~ FINALLY PASSING BEHIND A WATERFALL ~~
THEN SEES THE LEGENDARY PLACE WHISPERED ABOUT THROUGHOUT THE JUNGLE ~ THE SKULL CAVE OF THE PHANTOM!
WHAT ON EARTH ~~?
STRANGE LITTLE PEOPLE STARE AT CONNIE ~
ARE THEY ~~ FRIENDLY ~ OR HUNGRY ~?
SHE STOPS SHORT AHEAD IS AN AMAZING THRONE ~~ AND ON IT ~ SOMETHING MORE AMAZING ~~
ARE YOU THE ~~?
WELCOME, CONNIE. I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU. YES, I AM THE PHANTOM.
8-3
OOOOH ~
HEY ~~ SHE FAINTED ~~!

I'M ALL RIGHT NOW. HOW DID YOU KNOW I WAS COMING?
PEOPLE TELL ME THINGS. BUT YOU TOOK QUITE A CHANCE-

NOW- WHY ARE YOU HERE, CONNIE?
I WANT TO FIND MIKE- WE WERE SUPPOSED TO MARRY- HE ACTED NORMALLY-
Copr 1946 King Features Syndicate Inc World rights reserved

-UNTIL SOMEONE SENT HIM THIS YELLOW FEATHER! THEN HE BECAME EXCITED-- INSISTED WE MARRY AT ONCE- AND DISAPPEARED!
8-5

THAT'S NOT YELLOW- IT'S GOLDEN. THE FEATHER OF A GOLDEN PEACOCK!
WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

GURAN- WHO IN THE JUNGLE HAS GOLDEN PEACOCKS?
NO ONE, OH GHOST-WHO-WALKS.

FAR AWAY, IN THE MISTY MOUNTAINS, THERE ARE GOLDEN PEACOCKS IN THE GARDEN OF QUEEN ASTA OF TRONDELAY.

WHO- IS SHE?
I'VE NEVER SEEN HER, BUT I HEAR SHE'S A VERY BEAUTIFUL AND FIERY YOUNG LADY.

AND IT IS THERE THAT I BELIEVE YOU WILL FIND YOUR MISSING BRIDEGROOM
BUT-- WHY IS HE-- THERE?
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8-6

WHY SHOULD MIKE GO TO TRONDELAY ON OUR WEDDING DAY?
I DON'T KNOW. YOU'LL HAVE TO ASK HIM, CONNIE.
PLEASE HELP ME~I CAN'T GO THERE ALONE~WHAT~(SOB) CAN I DO~~?
I WAS JUST ABOUT TO LEAVE FOR AMERICA~AND DIANA~~
NOW~STOP CRYING. I'LL HELP YOU~BUT PLEASE STOP CRYING.
8-7
AT THE FOOT OF THE MISTY MOUNTAINS~THE HALF~BARBARIC KINGDOM OF TRONDELAY~~
RULED OVER BY THE COMPLETELY BARBARIC BUT BEAUTIFUL YOUNG QUEEN ASTA.
CAPTAIN MIKE STRANG IS HERE, YOUR HIGHNESS. HE WAITS OUTSIDE.
GOOD! DRAG THE SNEAK IN HERE!
8-8

CAPTAIN MIKE!

HELLO~ ASTA~
SO SORRY MY MEN DISTURBED YOU ON YOUR WEDDING DAY~ KIDNAPPING YOU LIKE THAT~~

BUT I AM PLEASED TO SEE THAT YOU REMEMBERED MY NAME. I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT HAVE FORGOTTEN~

JUST AS YOU EVIDENTLY FORGOT~ THAT YOU WERE ALREADY MARRIED TO ME!
8-9

I IMAGINE YOUR LITTLE BRIDE-TO-BE WAS SHOCKED BY YOUR STRANGE DISAPPEARANCE. I HOPE MY MEN DIDN'T MAUL YOU TOO BADLY.

ASTA, WE WERE NEVER REALLY MARRIED. I HARDLY KNEW YOU.
YOU RAN AWAY~ AND BROKE MY HEART~~

THE ONLY MAN I EVER LOVED~~
NOW, ASTA ~~ YOU'D ALREADY BEEN MARRIED NINE TIMES~~
8-10

AND EACH HUSBAND LOST HIS HEAD~ ONE AFTER ANOTHER~~
PUPPY-LOVE. BUT YOU WERE DIFFERENT, DARLING~~

ASTA, BE REASONABLE. I SAW YOU ONLY ONCE~ FROM A DISTANCE~
YOU WERE ABOUT TO BE EXECUTED~~

YOU SENT WORD THAT I WAS YOUR HUSBAND~~
THEREBY SAVING YOUR LIFE~

THEN I ESCAPED THE SAME NIGHT~ AND NEVER SAW YOU AGAIN~ I DIDN'T CONSIDER THAT WE WERE MARRIED~~
8-12
Copr 1946 King Features Syndicate Inc World rights reserved

IN TRONDELAY, MY WORD IS ENOUGH! I AM THE LAW! AFTER A FEW MONTHS IN MY DUNGEON~ ON BREAD AND WATER~ YOU MAY BELIEVE IT! TAKE HIM AWAY!

HE COULD BE MARRIED TO QUEEN ASTA~ TAKES THE DUNGEON INSTEAD
WHAT HE NEEDS IS A PADDED CELL!

WHAT A SPOT! ~ ASTA IS A SAVAGE~ A WILD WOMAN~~ SHE'LL LET ME ROT DOWN HERE~

POOR CONNIE ~LEFT AT THE ALTAR~ WHAT CAN SHE THINK OF ME? PROBABLY READY TO KNIFE ME!
8-13

WOMEN~ WOMEN! PHOOIE!
Copr 1946, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved

MY BRIDAL DRESS IS SO DIRTY~ I'D HATE TO MEET MIKE LIKE THIS
YOU'LL FIND A CHANGE OF CLOTHES IN THE CAVE, CONNIE.

HOW'S THIS?
I THINK MIKE'LL LIKE THAT.

OH, FOR SOME WARM WATER! I HOPE I DON'T RUIN MY BEAUTIFUL DRESS IN THIS JUNGLE LAUNDRY!
8-14

THERE! AS SOON AS THIS DRIES~~ WE'LL BE READY TO GO TO TRONDELAY~ AND MIKE!
AND QUEEN ASTA!
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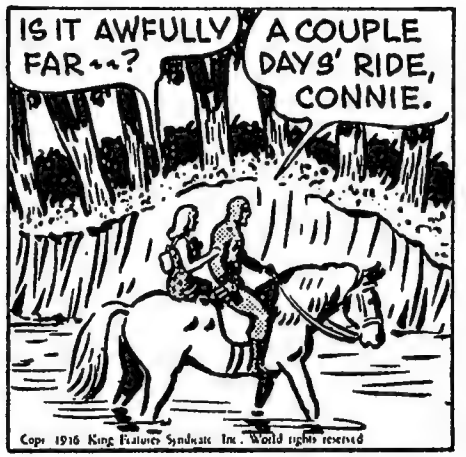
I'LL CARRY MY BRIDAL DRESS. SO IT'LL BE NICE AND FRESH WHEN WE REACH TRONDELAY.


IS IT AWFULLY FAR~~?
A COUPLE DAYS' RIDE, CONNIE.
Copr 1936 King Features Syndicate Inc., World rights reserved

NIGHT IN THE JUNGLE~~ CONNIE SLEEPS~THE PHANTOM STAYS ON GUARD~
YOU'RE AWFULLY NICE TO HELP ME~BZZZZ~~
8-15

AND HE DREAMS OF DIANA FAR AWAY~~
I THOUGHT I'D BE WITH DIANA BY NOW. THERE'S ALWAYS SOMETHING TO KEEP US APART~~

IN TRONDELAY ~ QUEEN ASTA AMUSES HERSELF HUNTING THE DANGEROUS WILD BOAR ~

~ PAUSES AT THE JAIL TO ADMINISTER PUNISHMENT TO A THIEF ~

~ STOPS FOR A FEW MOMENTS AT HER PRIVATE ARENA TO WATCH WILD ANIMALS FIGHT TO THE DEATH ~~

AH, ME ~ LIFE IS SO BORING HERE! THERE'S NOTHING TO DO!
8-16

WHERE IS CAPTAIN MIKE'S CELL?
AT THE END OF THE CORRIDOR, YOUR HIGHNESS.

SO! STILL MOONING ABOUT THAT MILK-FACED GIRL YOU ALMOST MARRIED? THAT SNIVELING CONNIE?

IF I HAD HER HERE, I'D CUT HER TO RIBBONS!
8-17

THAT'S TRONDELAY, CONNIE. WE'RE ALMOST THERE.

THE PHANTOM AND CONNIE REACH TRONDELAY, IN SEARCH OF HER MISSING BRIDEGROOM.
I GUESS ~ I'D BETTER CHANGE ~ TO MY OWN CLOTHES
Copr. 1946, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved.
I WONDER ~ IF MIKE WILL BE GLAD TO SEE ME ~?
HE'LL BE A FOOL IF HE ISN'T, CONNIE! READY TO GO?
NO! I'VE CHANGED MY MIND! I DON'T WANT TO SEE MIKE! I WANT TO GO HOME!
WHAT?
8-19
CONNIE! WHAT DO YOU MEAN ~ YOU CHANGED YOUR MIND?
~ MIKE ~~ LEFT ME AT THE ALTAR ~
I'VE BEEN A FOOL TO CHASE HIM ~ I THOUGHT SOMETHING HAPPENED TO HIM ~ I'M JUST REALIZING THAT MAYBE HE DOESN'T WANT TO SEE ME ~~
YOU'VE COME ALL THIS WAY! THE LEAST YOU CAN DO IS SEE HIM. HE OWES YOU AN EXPLANATION!
8-20
WHAT ~ WHAT'LL I DO?
GO TO THE PALACE ~ AND ASK FOR HIM.
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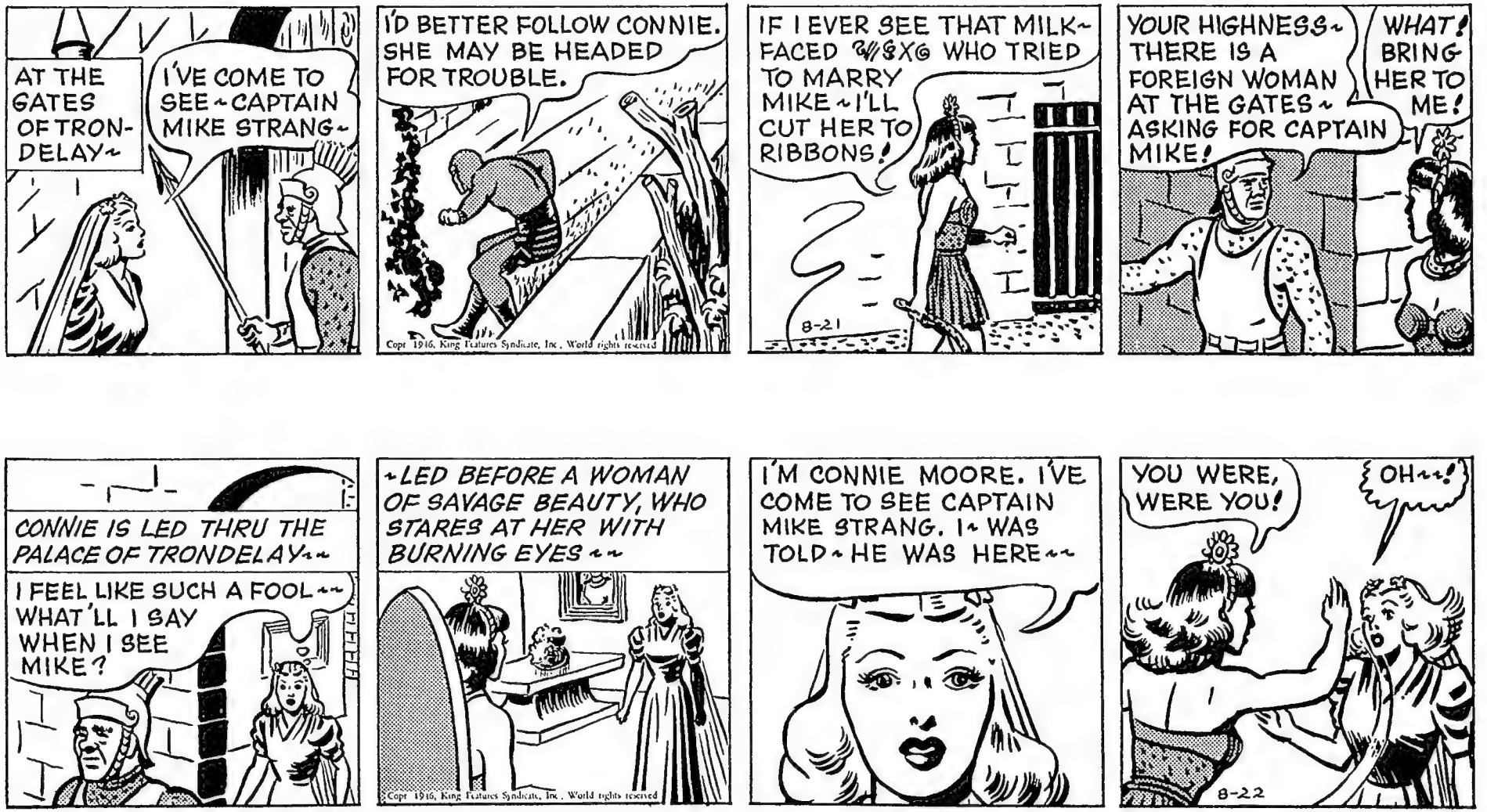

AT THE GATES OF TRON-DELAY~
I'VE COME TO SEE ~ CAPTAIN MIKE STRANG~
I'D BETTER FOLLOW CONNIE. SHE MAY BE HEADED FOR TROUBLE.
Copr 1946, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved
IF I EVER SEE THAT MILK~ FACED WHO TRIED TO MARRY MIKE ~ I'LL CUT HER TO RIBBONS!
8-21
YOUR HIGHNESS~ THERE IS A FOREIGN WOMAN AT THE GATES ~ ASKING FOR CAPTAIN MIKE!
WHAT! BRING HER TO ME!
CONNIE IS LED THRU THE PALACE OF TRONDELAY~~
I FEEL LIKE SUCH A FOOL~~ WHAT'LL I SAY WHEN I SEE MIKE?
~LED BEFORE A WOMAN OF SAVAGE BEAUTY, WHO STARES AT HER WITH BURNING EYES~~
Copr 1946, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved
I'M CONNIE MOORE. I'VE COME TO SEE CAPTAIN MIKE STRANG. I~ WAS TOLD ~ HE WAS HERE~~
YOU WERE, WERE YOU!
OH~~!
8-22

YOUR CAPTAIN MIKE HAPPENS TO BE MY HUSBAND!
YOUR~~ WHAT?

MY MEN DRAGGED HIM HERE BY THE HAIR OF HIS HEAD! AND HE'LL STAY IN MY DUNGEON UNTIL HE ROTS!

DRAGGED HIM HERE? IN YOUR DUNGEON?
YES! TRIED TO SNEAK OFF~MARRY YOU BEHIND MY BACK~

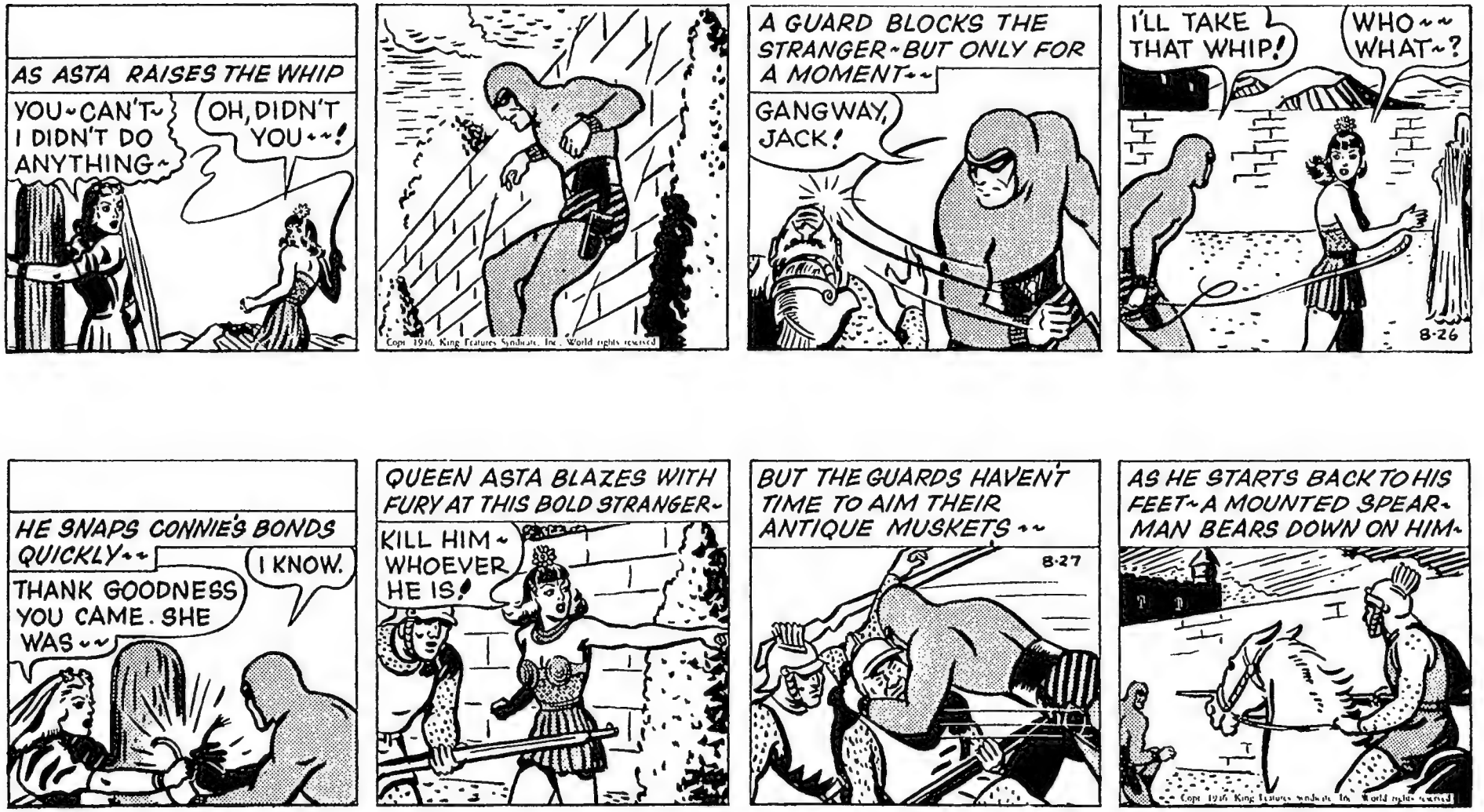
SO THAT'S THE STORY! THIS MIKE MUST BE QUITE A BOY!
8-23

TAKE HER TO THE WHIPPING POST!
WHIPPING POST?

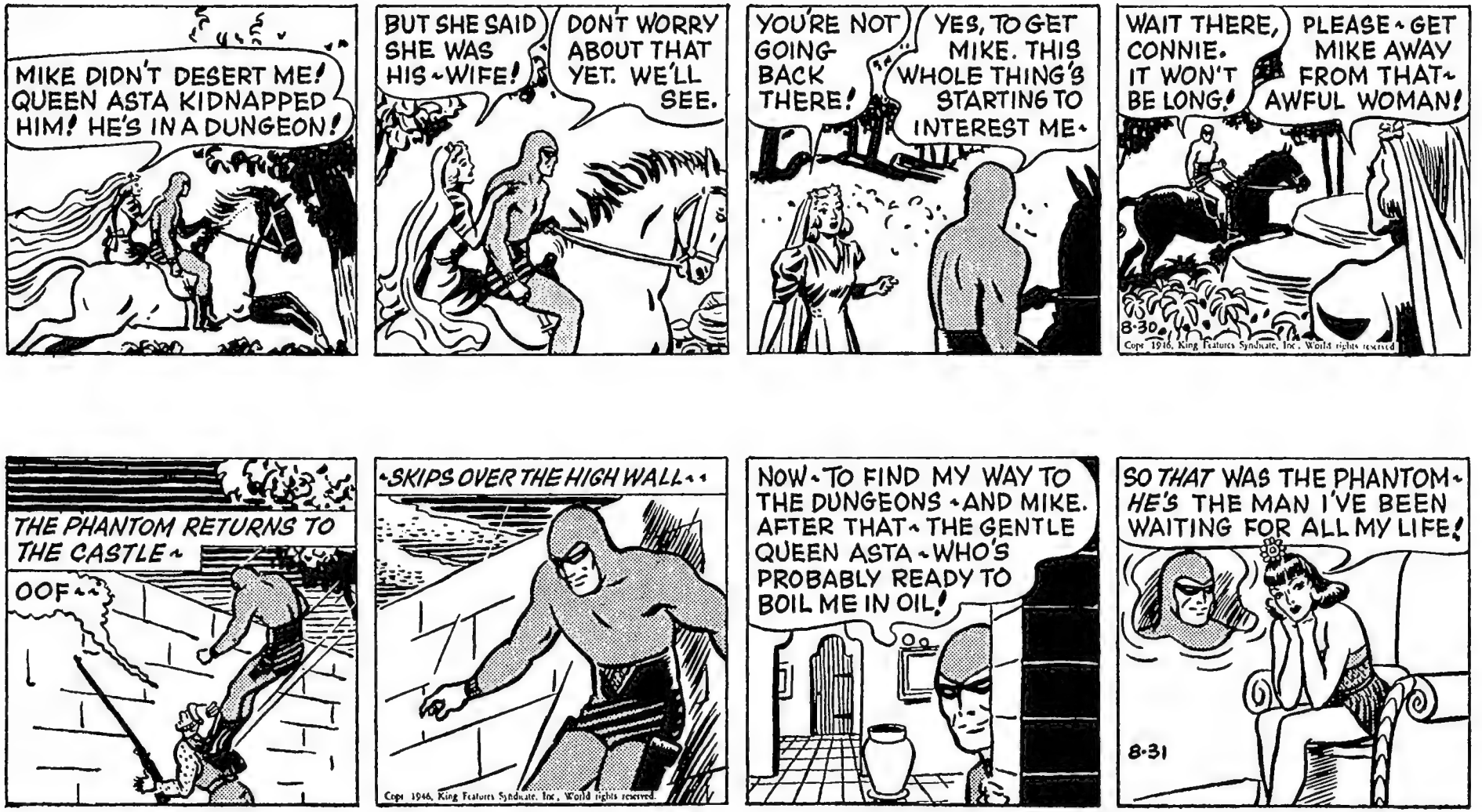
GENTLE CONNIE IS STUNNED. WHAT HAS SHE GOTTEN INTO~IN THIS BARBARIC REALM?
IS THAT~ QUEEN ASTA?
YUP.

I'LL WHIP HER TO TATTERS! ALL HE DOES IS MOON ABOUT HER~
8-24

I WON'T LEAVE HIM MUCH TO MOON ABOUT~~!


AS ASTA RAISES THE WHIP
YOU~CAN'T~ I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING~
OH, DIDN'T YOU~~!
Copr. 1946, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved
A GUARD BLOCKS THE STRANGER~BUT ONLY FOR A MOMENT~~
GANGWAY, JACK!
I'LL TAKE THAT WHIP!
WHO~~ WHAT~?
8-26
HE SNAPS CONNIE'S BONDS QUICKLY~~
THANK GOODNESS YOU CAME. SHE WAS~~
I KNOW.
QUEEN ASTA BLAZES WITH FURY AT THIS BOLD STRANGER~
KILL HIM~ WHOEVER HE IS!
BUT THE GUARDS HAVEN'T TIME TO AIM THEIR ANTIQUE MUSKETS~~
8-27
AS HE STARTS BACK TO HIS FEET~A MOUNTED SPEAR-MAN BEARS DOWN ON HIM~

IN THE PALACE COURTYARD AT TRONDELAY~THE PHANTOM LASHES OUT WITH HIS WHIP~~
~~PULLS THE HORSEMAN TO THE GROUND~~
~SPRINGS TO THE HORSE~ SWEEPS CONNIE UP WITH HIM~~
~AND IS OFF AND AWAY BEFORE ANYONE~INCLUDING QUEEN ASTA~CAN SAY BOO!
B~~~
8-28
WHO WAS THAT TORNADO?
WE TRIED TO FOLLOW THEM~ LOST THEM IN THE WOODS~~
WHO WAS THAT MAN?
DEATH'S HEAD~~! THE MARK OF THE~PHANTOM!
SO THAT WAS THE PHANTOM! WHAT A MAN~~!
8-29


MIKE DIDN'T DESERT ME! QUEEN ASTA KIDNAPPED HIM! HE'S IN A DUNGEON!
BUT SHE SAID SHE WAS HIS ~ WIFE!
DON'T WORRY ABOUT THAT YET. WE'LL SEE.
YOU'RE NOT GOING BACK THERE!
YES, TO GET MIKE. THIS WHOLE THING'S STARTING TO INTEREST ME ~
WAIT THERE, CONNIE. IT WON'T BE LONG!
PLEASE ~ GET MIKE AWAY FROM THAT ~ AWFUL WOMAN!
8-30
Copr 1946, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved
THE PHANTOM RETURNS TO THE CASTLE ~
OOF ~ ~
~ SKIPS OVER THE HIGH WALL ~ ~
Copr 1946, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved.
NOW ~ TO FIND MY WAY TO THE DUNGEONS ~ AND MIKE. AFTER THAT ~ THE GENTLE QUEEN ASTA ~ WHO'S PROBABLY READY TO BOIL ME IN OIL!
SO THAT WAS THE PHANTOM ~ HE'S THE MAN I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR ALL MY LIFE!
8-31

IN THE PALACE OF TRONDELAY.

ULP~~

HERE COMES CAPTAIN MIKE'S BREAD AND WATER.
HMM~~ VARIETY. WHOLE-WHEAT BREAD TODAY.

IF I COULD ONLY GET OUT~ AND SEE CONNIE ~ JUST FOR A MINUTE~~!
9-2
Copr. 1946, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved.

BREAD AND WATER AGAIN! CAN'T THEY AT LEAST MAKE IT HOT WATER~ JUST FOR A CHANGE!

SHH~ CONNIE'S WAITING FOR YOU~ OUTSIDE THE TOWN.

BEFORE YOU LEAVE~ TELL ME HOW YOU GOT INTO THIS MESS WITH QUEEN ASTA.
WHO~ ARE YOU?

MEN CALL ME THE PHANTOM
MIGOSH! SO THERE REALLY IS A YOU!
9-3
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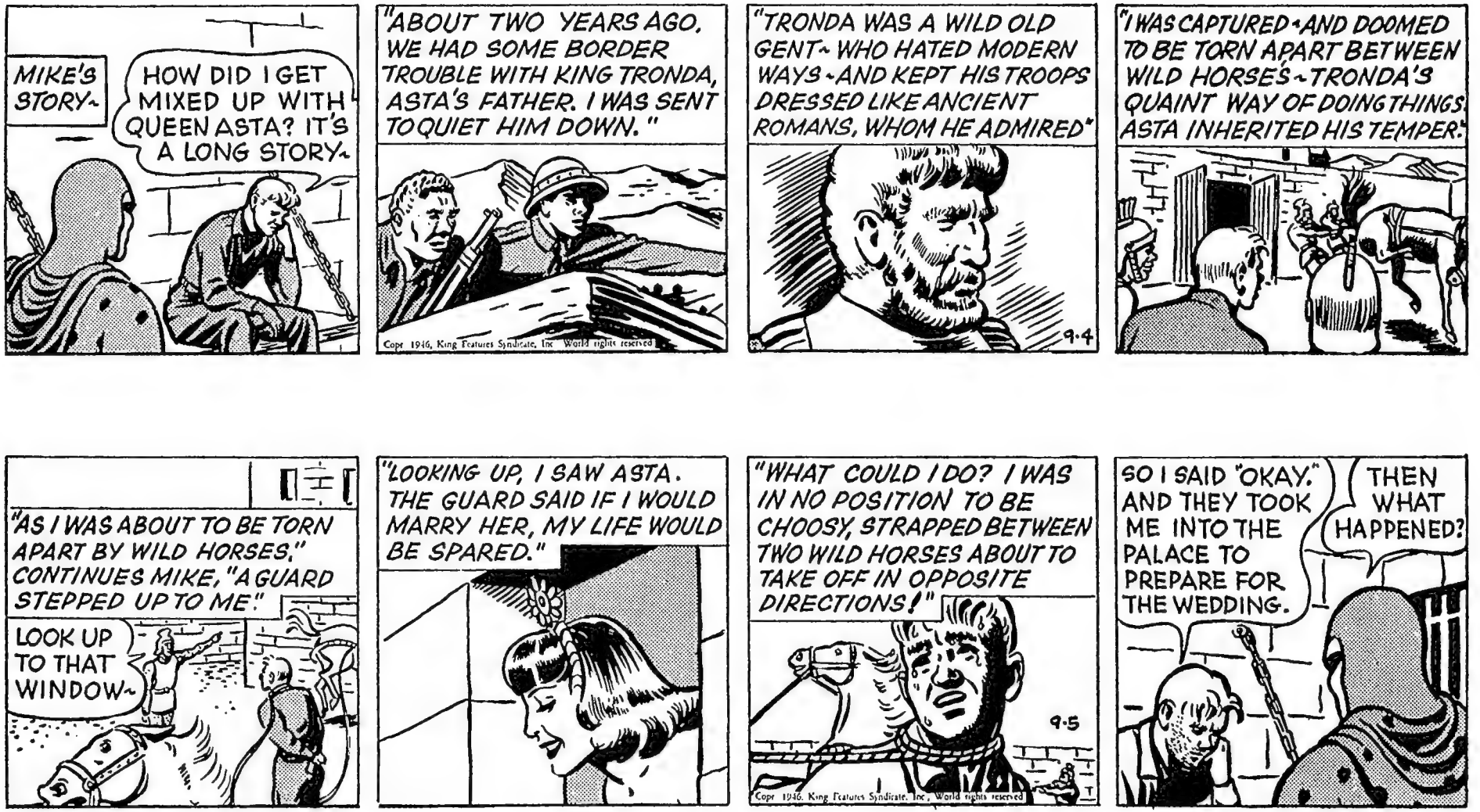
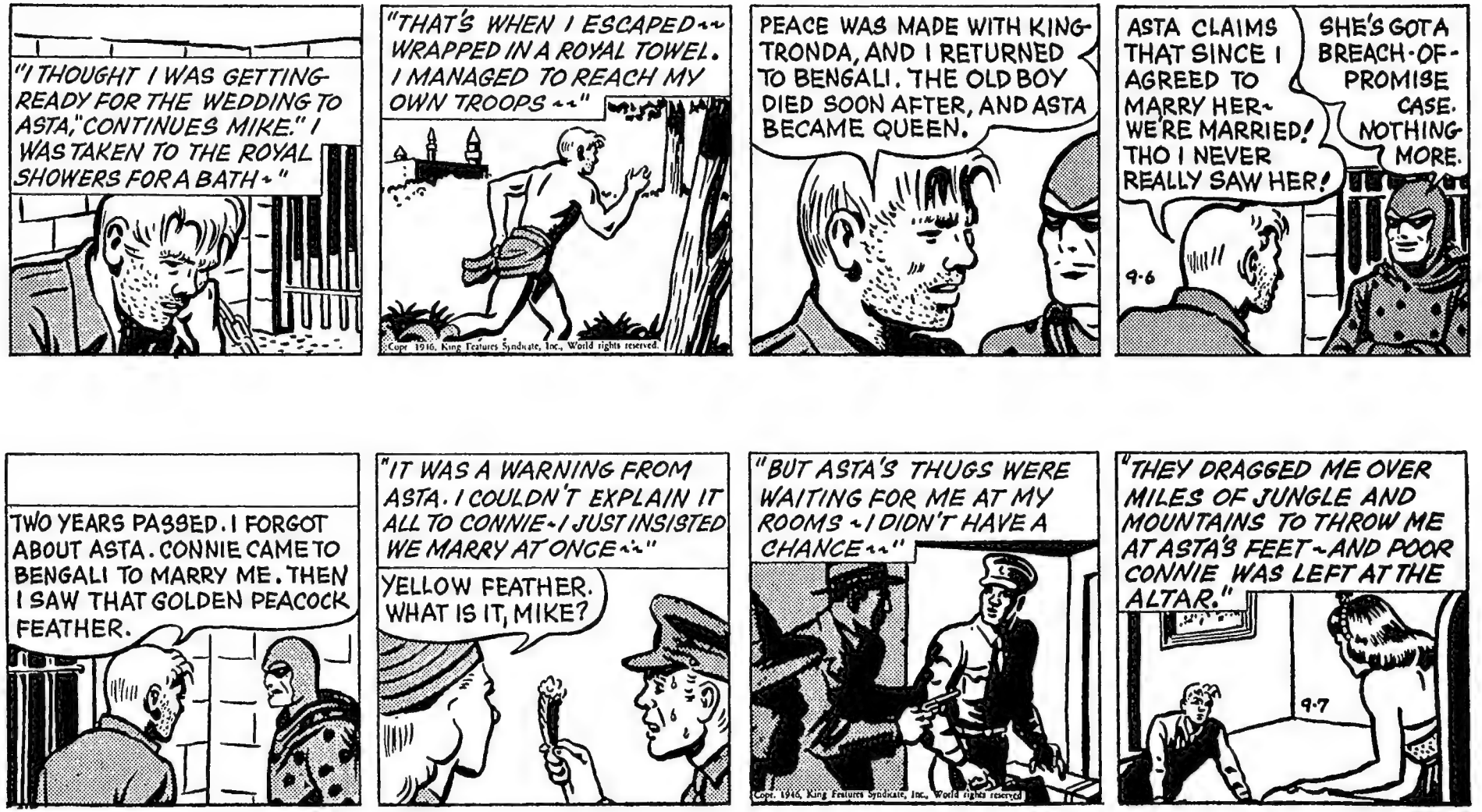

MIKE'S STORY~
HOW DID I GET MIXED UP WITH QUEEN ASTA? IT'S A LONG STORY~
"ABOUT TWO YEARS AGO, WE HAD SOME BORDER TROUBLE WITH KING TRONDA, ASTA'S FATHER. I WAS SENT TO QUIET HIM DOWN."
Copr 1946, King Features Syndicate, Inc World rights reserved
"TRONDA WAS A WILD OLD GENT~ WHO HATED MODERN WAYS~ AND KEPT HIS TROOPS DRESSED LIKE ANCIENT ROMANS, WHOM HE ADMIRED"
9-4
"I WAS CAPTURED~ AND DOOMED TO BE TORN APART BETWEEN WILD HORSES~ TRONDA'S QUAINT WAY OF DOING THINGS. ASTA INHERITED HIS TEMPER."
"AS I WAS ABOUT TO BE TORN APART BY WILD HORSES," CONTINUES MIKE, "A GUARD STEPPED UP TO ME."
LOOK UP TO THAT WINDOW~
"LOOKING UP, I SAW ASTA. THE GUARD SAID IF I WOULD MARRY HER, MY LIFE WOULD BE SPARED."
"WHAT COULD I DO? I WAS IN NO POSITION TO BE CHOOSY, STRAPPED BETWEEN TWO WILD HORSES ABOUT TO TAKE OFF IN OPPOSITE DIRECTIONS!"
9-5
Copr 1946, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved
SO I SAID "OKAY." AND THEY TOOK ME INTO THE PALACE TO PREPARE FOR THE WEDDING.
THEN WHAT HAPPENED?


"I THOUGHT I WAS GETTING-READY FOR THE WEDDING TO ASTA," CONTINUES MIKE." I WAS TAKEN TO THE ROYAL SHOWERS FOR A BATH~"
"THAT'S WHEN I ESCAPED~~ WRAPPED IN A ROYAL TOWEL. I MANAGED TO REACH MY OWN TROOPS~~"
Copr. 1946, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved.
PEACE WAS MADE WITH KING-TRONDA, AND I RETURNED TO BENGALI. THE OLD BOY DIED SOON AFTER, AND ASTA BECAME QUEEN.
ASTA CLAIMS THAT SINCE I AGREED TO MARRY HER~ WE'RE MARRIED! THO I NEVER REALLY SAW HER!
SHE'S GOT A BREACH-OF-PROMISE CASE. NOTHING-MORE.
9-6
TWO YEARS PASSED. I FORGOT ABOUT ASTA. CONNIE CAME TO BENGALI TO MARRY ME. THEN I SAW THAT GOLDEN PEACOCK FEATHER.
"IT WAS A WARNING FROM ASTA. I COULDN'T EXPLAIN IT ALL TO CONNIE~I JUST INSISTED WE MARRY AT ONCE~~"
YELLOW FEATHER. WHAT IS IT, MIKE?
"BUT ASTA'S THUGS WERE WAITING FOR ME AT MY ROOMS ~I DIDN'T HAVE A CHANCE~~"
Copr. 1946, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved.
"THEY DRAGGED ME OVER MILES OF JUNGLE AND MOUNTAINS TO THROW ME AT ASTA'S FEET~AND POOR CONNIE WAS LEFT AT THE ALTAR."
9-7

ASTA RULES TRONDELAY, AS IF SHE WERE LIVING IN ANCIENT ROMAN TIMES, INSTEAD OF 1946. SHE HAS COMPLETE POWER--
Copr. 1946, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved

SHE'S A WILD WOMAN. IF I DON'T BECOME HER HUSBAND- SHE'LL KILL ME-AND WITH POOR CONNIE WAIT'NG-WHAT AM I TO DO?

YOU'RE GETTING OUT OF HERE, RIGHT NOW.
NO CHANCE! EVEN IF WE COULD FIGHT PAST THOSE TWO GUARDS, THEY'D CALL A HUNDRED MORE.
9-9

YOU'RE GOING OUT- AS I CAME- IN MY PLACE. I'M STAYING HERE.

GO TO CONNIE. SHE'S WAITING THERE WITH A HORSE. RIDE TO THE DEEP WOODS AND WAIT FOR ME, MIKE.
Copr. 1946, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved

BUT HOW WILL YOU GET AWAY?
I'LL FIGURE THAT OUT WHEN THE TIME COMES.

GOLLY! I DON'T KNOW HOW TO THANK YOU. WHAT WILL YOU DO FIRST?
WAIT HERE FOR ASTA.
9-10

I ALWAYS HEARD THAT THE PHANTOM FEARED NOTHING. NOW-I BELIEVE IT! I WARN YOU- SHE PLAYS ROUGH--
SO DO I.

DISGUISED, MIKE LEAVES THE CELL, THE PHANTOM REMAINING IN HIS PLACE.
9-11
Copr. 1946, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved.
HOW'S CAPTAIN MIKE DOIN'ON THE BREAD AND WATER?
CHANGED HIS MIND ABOUT MARRYING THE QUEEN YET?
SHE'LL TAME HIM~~
~OR STARVE HIM TO DEATH.
THE QUEEN'S DUE FOR A SURPRISE. OR MAYBE THE PHANTOM IS. I'D SAY IT WAS EVEN~STEVEN.
WOW~ I WAS AFRAID THOSE GUARDS WOULD TAKE A CLOSER LOOK~
Copr. 1946, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved.
WHO'S THAT COMING THIS WAY? IT'S NOT THE PHANTOM~~
CONNIE~CONNIE~ WHERE ARE YOU?
9-12
MIKE! MIKE!
CONNIE~~ BABY!

MIKE DARLING~ YOU'RE NOT HURT~ YOU'RE ALL RIGHT~?
YES, THANKS TO THE PHANTOM. HE STAYED THERE~ IN MY PLACE!
Copr. 1945. King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved

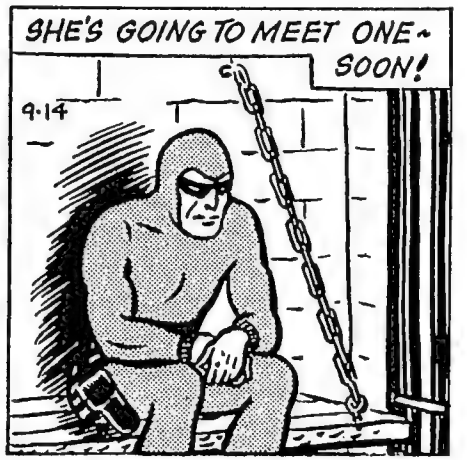
HE SAID WE'RE TO RIDE TO THE DEEP WOODS, AND WAIT FOR HIM THERE. WE'LL LEAVE "HERO" HERE FOR HIM.

I FELT TERRIBLE, CONNIE~ THINKING OF YOU, WAITING AT THE CHURCH~
I'M STILL IN MY BRIDAL DRESS~ I DIDN'T HAVE ANYTHING ELSE.
9-13

MIKE~ WHY DID QUEEN ASTA SAY SHE WAS MARRIED TO YOU~~?
WELL, DARLING~ THAT'S A LONG STORY. IT'S LIKE THIS~

OH, DEAR, LIFE'S SO DULL HERE.
YES, YOUR HIGHNESS
YES, YOUR HIGHNESS.
YES, YOUR HIGHNESS.
Copr. 1946. King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved

YES, YES, YES! THAT'S ALL YOU CAN SAY! I'M SICK OF THE LOT OF YOU! CAN'T I EVER MEET A MAN WHO CAN SAY NO!


SHE'S GOING TO MEET ONE~ SOON!
9-14

WHY ARE YOU STOPPING, MIKE?
I THINK WE SHOULD GO BACK TO TRONDELAY, CONNIE.

IT'S SELFISH OF US TO RIDE OFF AND LEAVE THE PHANTOM BEHIND.
HE TOLD US TO.

YES, BUT HE SAVED MY LIFE. IT'S YELLOW OF ME TO TAKE OFF. I WAS SO HAPPY TO SEE YOU, I DIDN'T THINK ~~

HE GAVE ME ONE OF HIS GUNS. I'M GOING BACK~TO USE IT~IF NECESSARY!
YOU'RE RIGHT. HE MAY NEED OUR HELP!
9-16
Copr 1946, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved.

WE'VE SEARCHED THE WOODS FOR THE PHANTOM AND THAT GIRL, YOUR HIGHNESS. WE COULD NOT FIND THEM.

FOOLS! ONLY ONE MAN~AND HE WAS MORE THAN A MATCH FOR MY ENTIRE PALACE REGIMENT!

THAT WAS THE MAN FOR ME~AND HE'S GONE! IT'S ALL MIKE'S FAULT! I'LL GIVE HIM A PIECE OF MY MIND!
Copr 1946, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved.

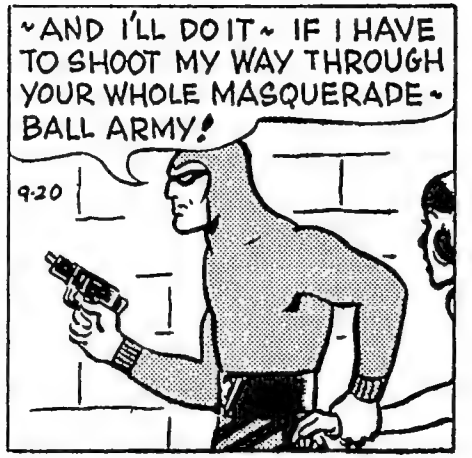
WHICH IS CAPTAIN MIKE'S CELL?
AT THE END, YOUR HIGHNESS. (WOW, SHE'S BURNING! HE'S GOING TO CATCH IT!)
9-17

REMAIN IN THE CORRIDOR, GUARD. I'LL HANDLE CAPTAIN MIKE, MYSELF. IT'S HIGH TIME~~
?
HOW~ DID HE~ GET IN~ HERE~?
I~I~ DON'T KNOW~~ YOUR HIGHNESS! CAPTAIN MIKE WAS~ IN HERE~~
IT WAS DONE WITH MIRRORS, YOUR HIGHNESS.
YOU FRESH, IMPUDENT~
9-18
Copr 1946, King Features Syndicate, Inc World rights reserved
ASTA, YOU'RE TOO HANDY WITH THAT WHIP!
OH~ YOU~~ SHOOT HIM DOWN!
THE PHANTOM FLICKS THE WHIP AT THE GUARD~~
Copr 1946, King Features Syndicate, Inc, World rights reserved
AND IN A SINGLE MOVEMENT, PULLS THE GUARD TO HIM~ AND LANDS HARD!
9-19
OOOH~ YOU'RE WONDERFUL! KISS ME.

UMMM?
NOPE. THAT'S A GOOD WAY TO SPREAD COLDS.

YOU CAD! YOU-- I'LL HAVE YOU FLAYED ALIVE! I'LL--

COME ON, ASTA I'M TAKING YOU BACK TO JUSTICE-
HOW DARE YOU!--


-AND I'LL DO IT- IF I HAVE TO SHOOT MY WAY THROUGH YOUR WHOLE MASQUERADE- BALL ARMY!
9-20

TAKING ME TO JUSTICE? WHY?
YOU KIDNAPPED MIKE. YOU MIGHT HAVE KILLED CONNIE AT THE WHIPPING POST!

YOU CAN'T ARREST ME! I'M QUEEN!
JUST IN TRONDELAY. I'M NO POLICEMAN, BUT I'LL TAKE YOU TO THE PROPER AUTHORITIES.

YES, TAKE ME WITH YOU! YOU'RE THE MOST WONDERFUL MAN I'VE EVER MET! I'LL NEVER LEAVE YOU!

WHAT CAN YOU DO WITH A WOMAN LIKE THIS?
9-21

DROP YOUR GUNS.
DO AS HE ASKS.
Copr. 1946, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved

WOULDN'T YOU LIKE TO EAT BEFORE YOU TAKE ME OFF TO JAIL?
WELL, I AM HUNGRY~ BUT~~

COME, I WON'T POISON YOU. IN FACT, I WILL COOK FOR YOU WITH MY OWN HANDS!
9-23

YOUR HIGHNESS, YOU'RE AMAZING!

SEE, I WILL EAT SOME OF YOUR FOOD, TO PROVE IT ISN'T POISONED.
Copr. 1946, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved

DO YOU ALWAYS EAT WITH A PISTOL? DON'T YOU TRUST ME?
NOPE.

CAN'T YOU LIKE ME~A LITTLE? I'M TOLD I'M RATHER ATTRACTIVE AND~~~
ASTA, I'VE GOT A GIRL AT HOME.

THAT'S SO FAR AWAY. OUT OF SIGHT~OUT OF MIND. DO YOU SUPPOSE SHE'S SITTING HOME NIGHTS~WAITING FOR YOU?
9-24

NOPE, ASTA, EVEN IF I DIDN'T HAVE A GIRL, YOU'RE TOO MUCH OF A WILDCAT FOR ME.
Copr. 1946, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved.

THE WINE STINGS INTO HIS EYES - MOMENTARILY BLINDING HIM - -
WHO'S A WILDCAT? I'M CALM - I'M - -

THE WAITING CHEF HURLS HIS POTATO MASHER - - SCORING A BULL'S-EYE!

FOOL! TRY TO OUTWIT ASTA! GOING TO ARREST ME - - WERE YOU!?
9-25

NOW WHAT, ASTA?
YOU WILL REMAIN HERE UNTIL YOU DIE - AS MY SLAVE!
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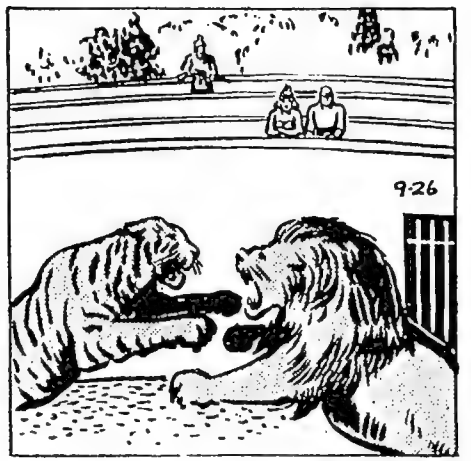
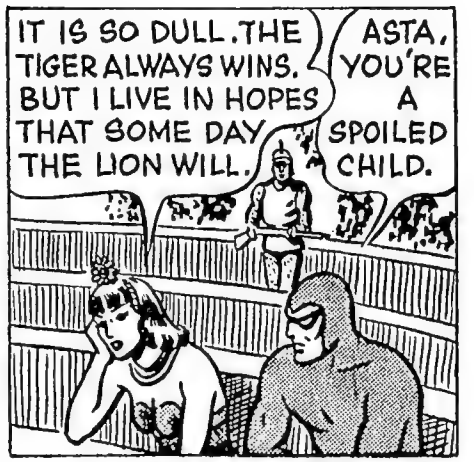
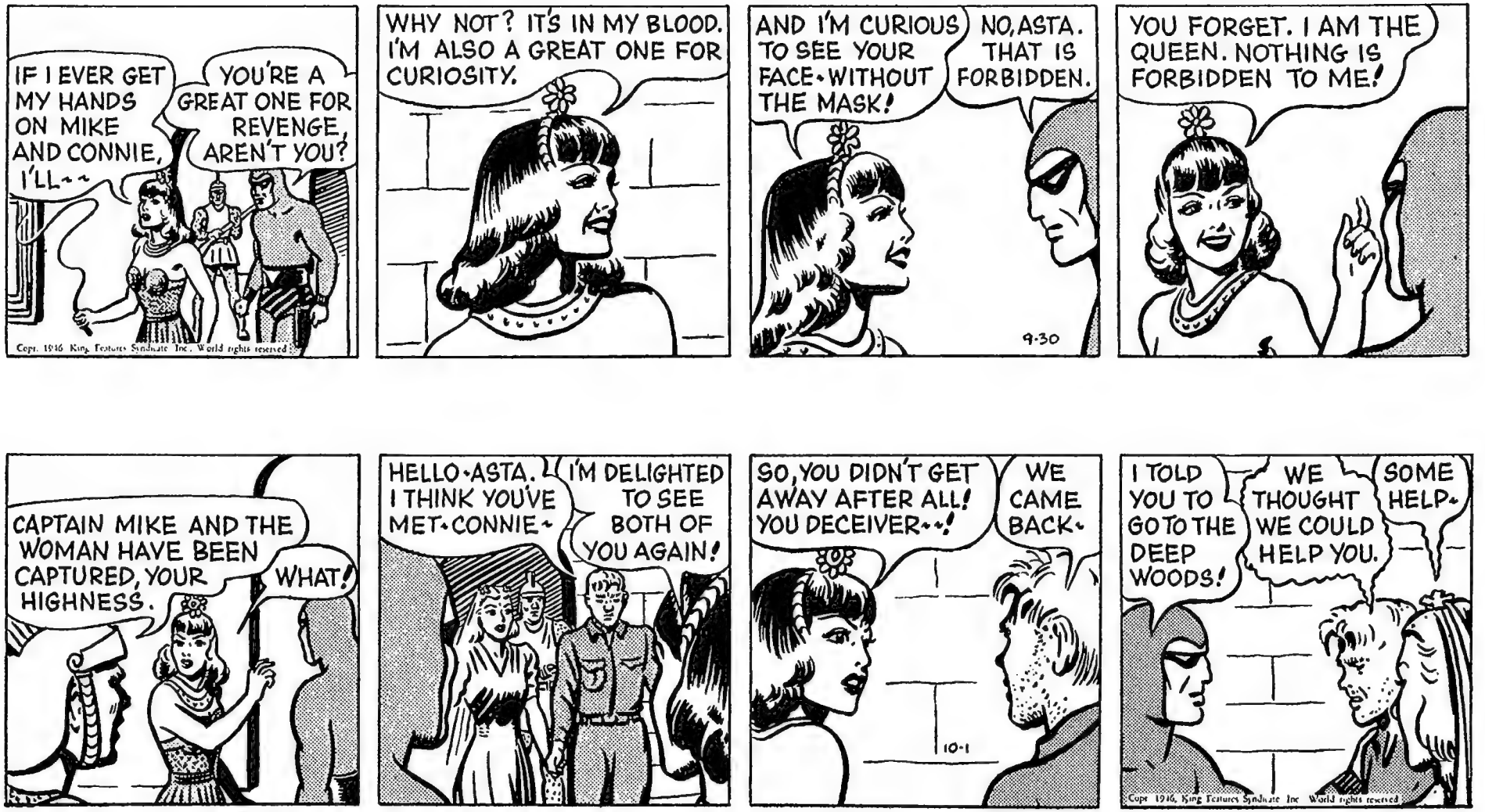
THE THRONE ROOM BORES ME. COME WITH ME TO THE ARENA.


9-26


IT IS SO DULL. THE TIGER ALWAYS WINS. BUT I LIVE IN HOPES THAT SOME DAY THE LION WILL.
ASTA, YOU'RE A SPOILED CHILD.

ASTA, YOU'RE LIVING IN THE MIDDLE AGES.
INDEED?
Copr. 1946, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved
YOUR COSTUMES, YOUR COURT, YOUR ARENA, AND ALL THAT. DON'T YOU KNOW THERE'S A BIG WORLD OUTSIDE, WITH AIRPLANES AND RADIOS?
I KNOW ALL ABOUT THAT WORLD ~AND I DON'T LIKE IT.
THIS IS MY WORLD. I LIVE AS I PLEASE ~AND I LIKE THAT!
9-27
I'M GLAD WE CAME BACK TO HELP THE PHANTOM. IF WE HADN'T, I'D NEVER FORGIVE MYSELF, CONNIE.
Copr. 1946, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved
MIKE~ARE YOU SURE YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING? MAYBE WE'LL BE CAUGHT~
OF COURSE WE WON'T BE CAUGHT. I KNOW WHAT I'M DOING! YOU FORGET, I'M AN OLD ARMY MAN!
OH
9-28


IF I EVER GET MY HANDS ON MIKE AND CONNIE, I'LL--
YOU'RE A GREAT ONE FOR REVENGE, AREN'T YOU?
Copr. 1946 King Features Syndicate Inc. World rights reserved.
WHY NOT? IT'S IN MY BLOOD. I'M ALSO A GREAT ONE FOR CURIOSITY.
AND I'M CURIOUS TO SEE YOUR FACE-WITHOUT THE MASK!
NO, ASTA. THAT IS FORBIDDEN.
9-30
YOU FORGET. I AM THE QUEEN. NOTHING IS FORBIDDEN TO ME!
CAPTAIN MIKE AND THE WOMAN HAVE BEEN CAPTURED, YOUR HIGHNESS.
WHAT!
HELLO-ASTA. I THINK YOU'VE MET-CONNIE-
I'M DELIGHTED TO SEE BOTH OF YOU AGAIN!
SO, YOU DIDN'T GET AWAY AFTER ALL! YOU DECEIVER--!
WE CAME BACK-
10-1
I TOLD YOU TO GO TO THE DEEP WOODS!
WE THOUGHT WE COULD HELP YOU.
SOME HELP-
Copr. 1946, King Features Syndicate Inc. World rights reserved.

ALL MY SUBJECTS KNOW THAT YOU SCORNED ME FOR THIS WOMAN, CAPTAIN MIKE!
NOW, ASTA~
AS IT HAPPENS, I NO LONGER LOVE YOU, MIKE BUT I MUST WIPE OUT THIS HUMILIATION! IN MY FATHER'S TIME~~~
Copr 1946, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved
~OUR ENEMIES WERE TORN APART BETWEEN WILD HORSES. IT WAS AN EXCELLENT CUSTOM~AND I'VE DECIDED TO REVIVE IT~FOR YOUR BENEFIT~MIKE AND CONNIE!
IN THE ARENA~GIANT WILD HORSES!
10-2
MIKE~WHAT~WHAT ARE THEY DOING~?
TYING US~BETWEEN~WILD HORSES!
Copr 1946, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved
THIS~TORNADO~WON'T HOLD STILL~~
TIE THE ROPE~TO THEIR WRISTS~
ASTA~YOU CAN'T PERMIT THIS~IT'S NOT HUMAN~
THEY HUMILIATED ME!
10-3
MIKE~I CAN'T STAND THIS~I WANT TO BE BRAVE~BUT~
IT WON'T BE LONG~~

IN THE ARENA ~~ MIKE AND CONNIE ARE TIED BETWEEN WILD HORSES ~~ THE BLINDFOLDS ARE REMOVED ~~ THE GIANTS REAR INTO THE AIR ~~

THEY'LL BE PULLED APART~ OR TRAMPLED TO DEATH~
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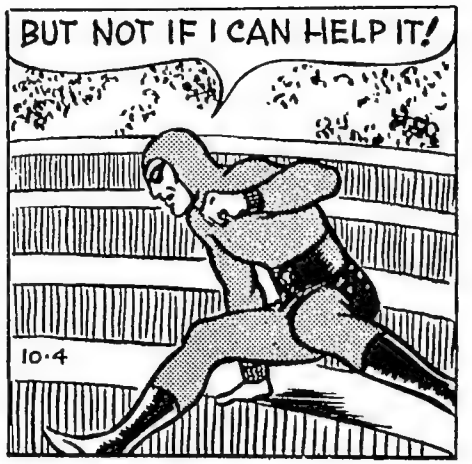
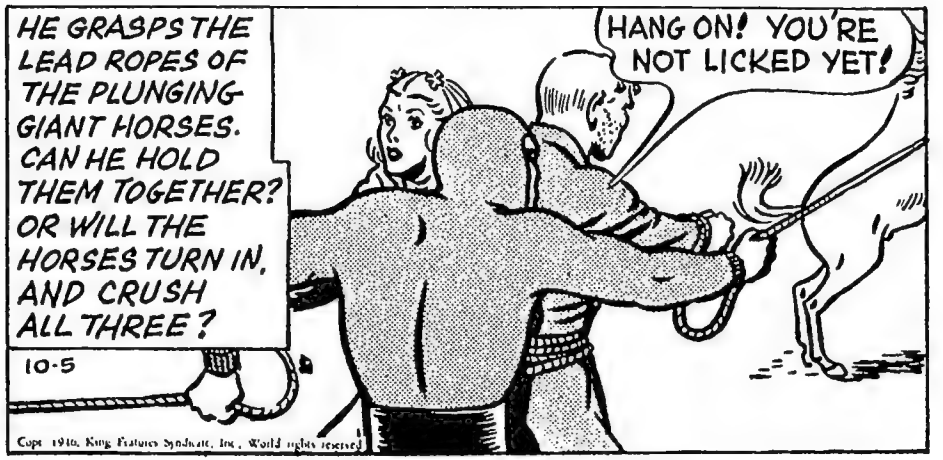

BUT NOT IF I CAN HELP IT!
10-4

THE PHANTOM VAULTS INTO THE ARENA AND SPEEDS TOWARD THE WILD HORSES.

COME BACK, YOU FOOL! YOU'LL BE KILLED, TOO!


HE GRASPS THE LEAD ROPES OF THE PLUNGING GIANT HORSES. CAN HE HOLD THEM TOGETHER? OR WILL THE HORSES TURN IN, AND CRUSH ALL THREE?
10-5
HANG ON! YOU'RE NOT LICKED YET!
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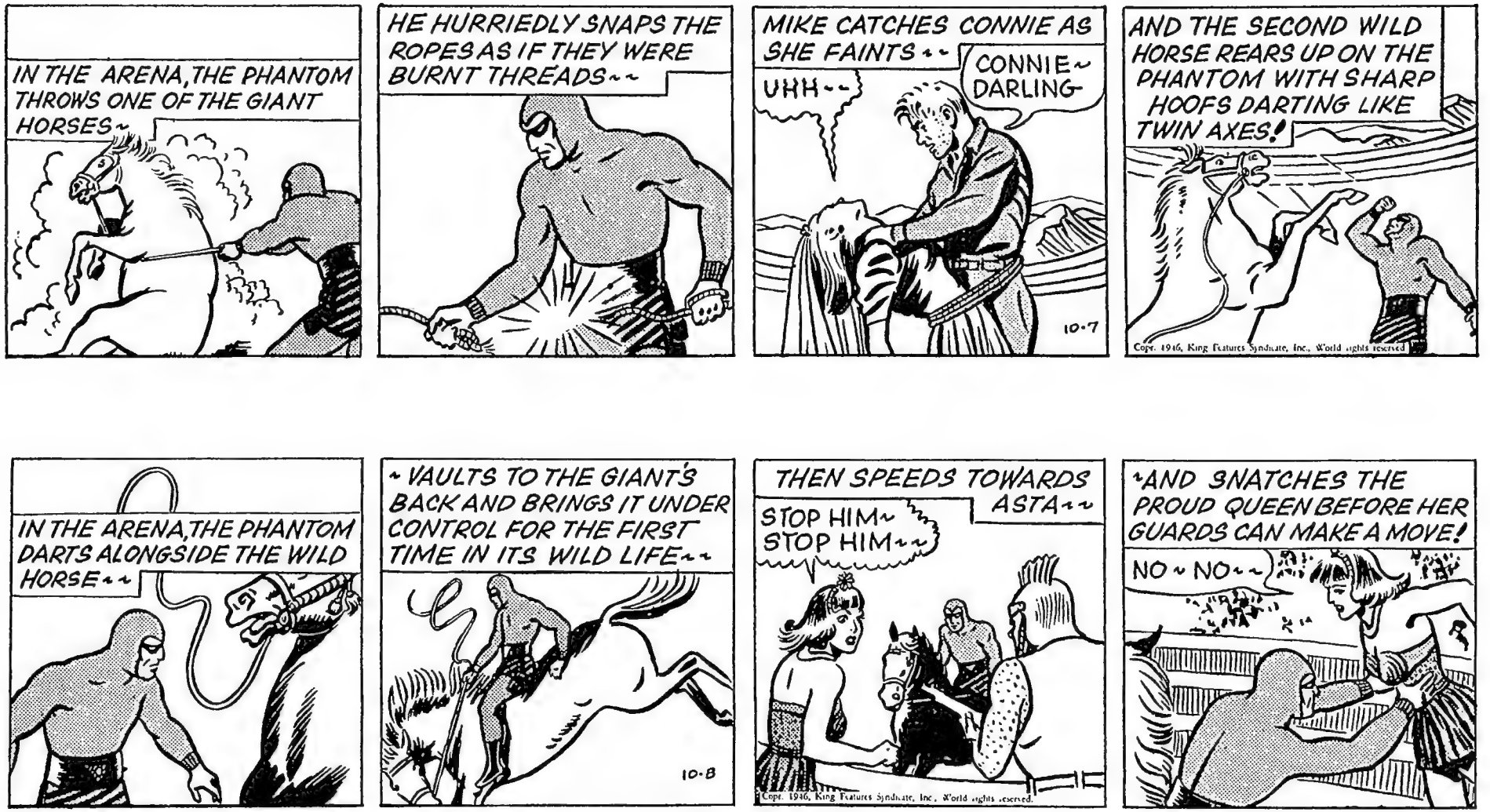
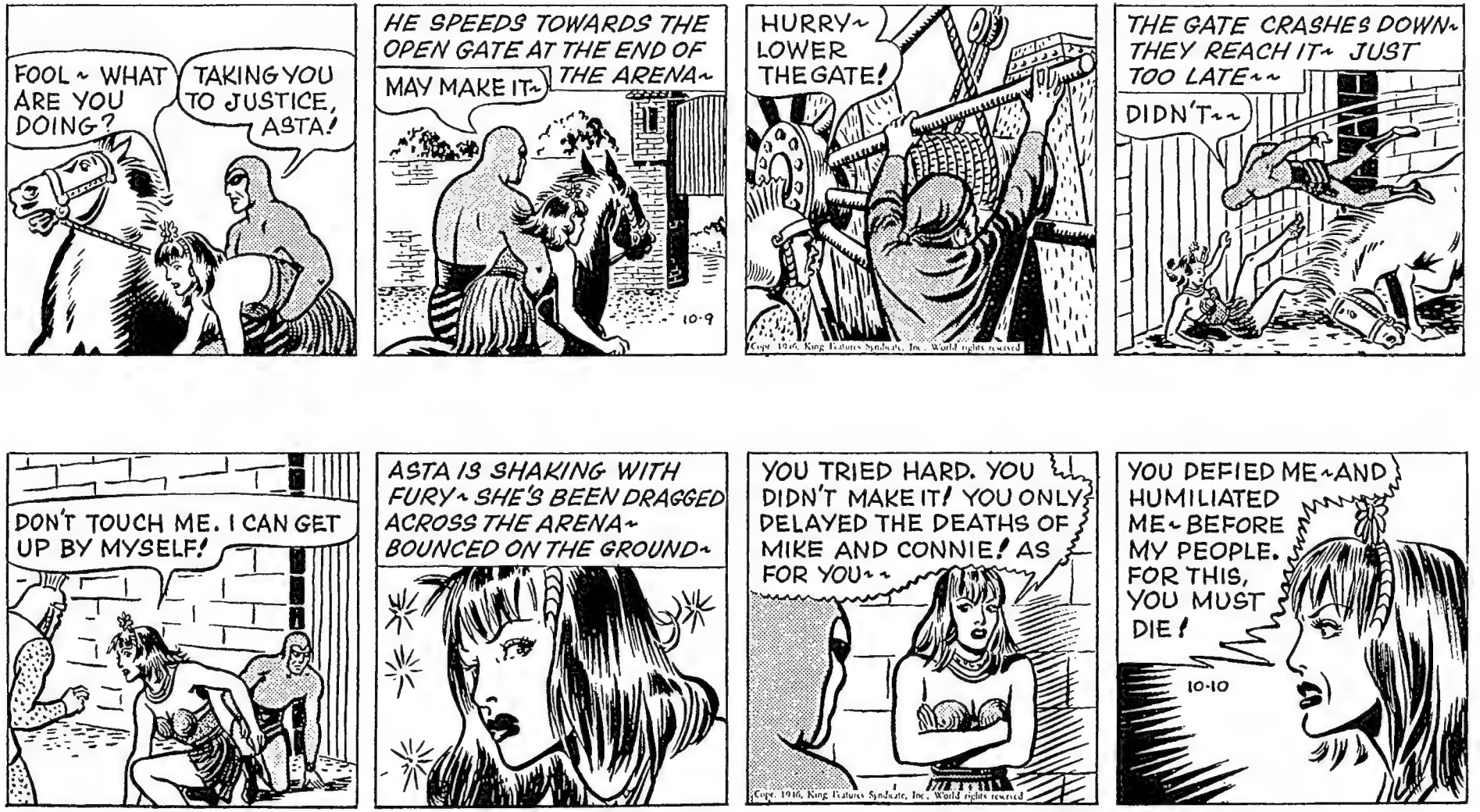
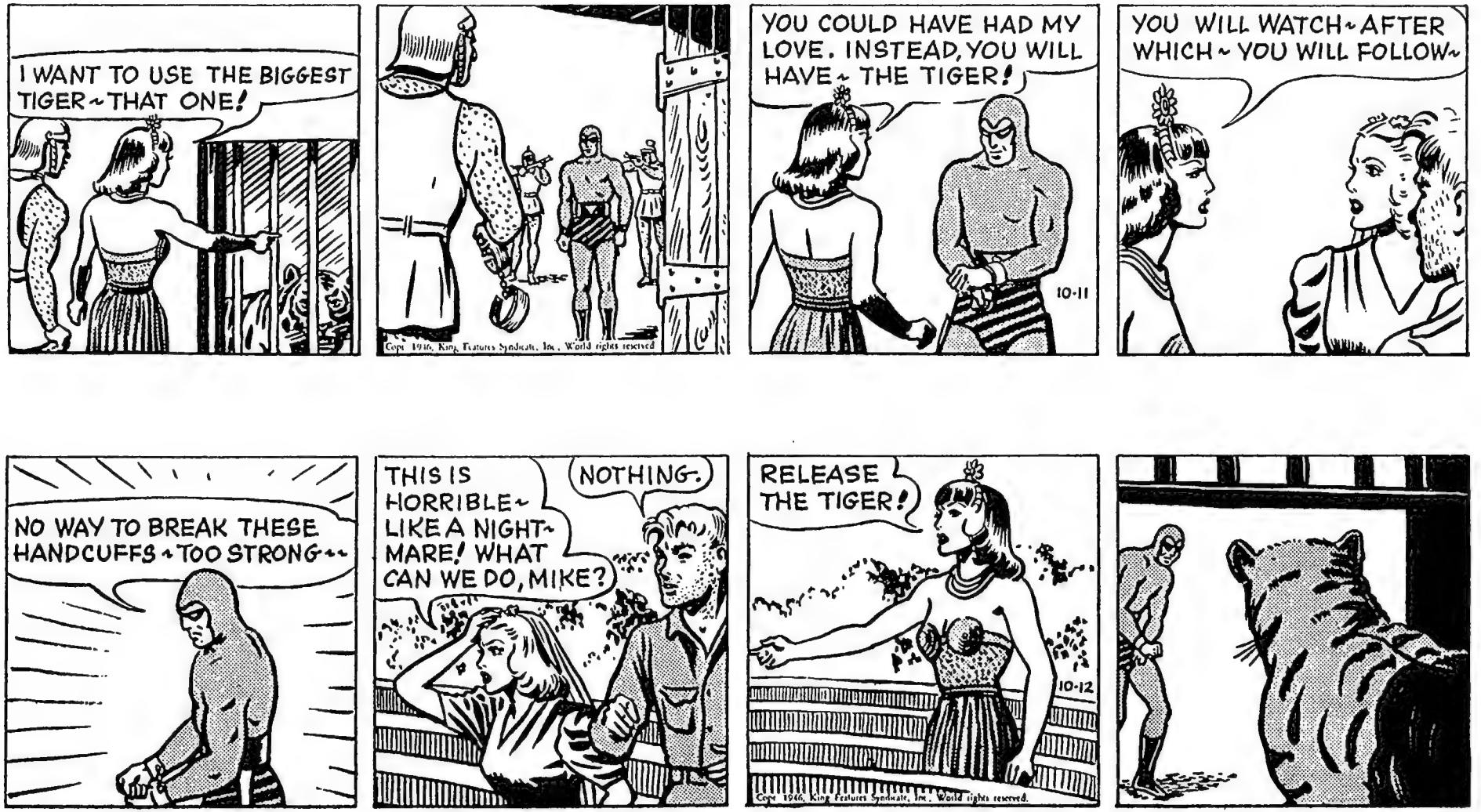
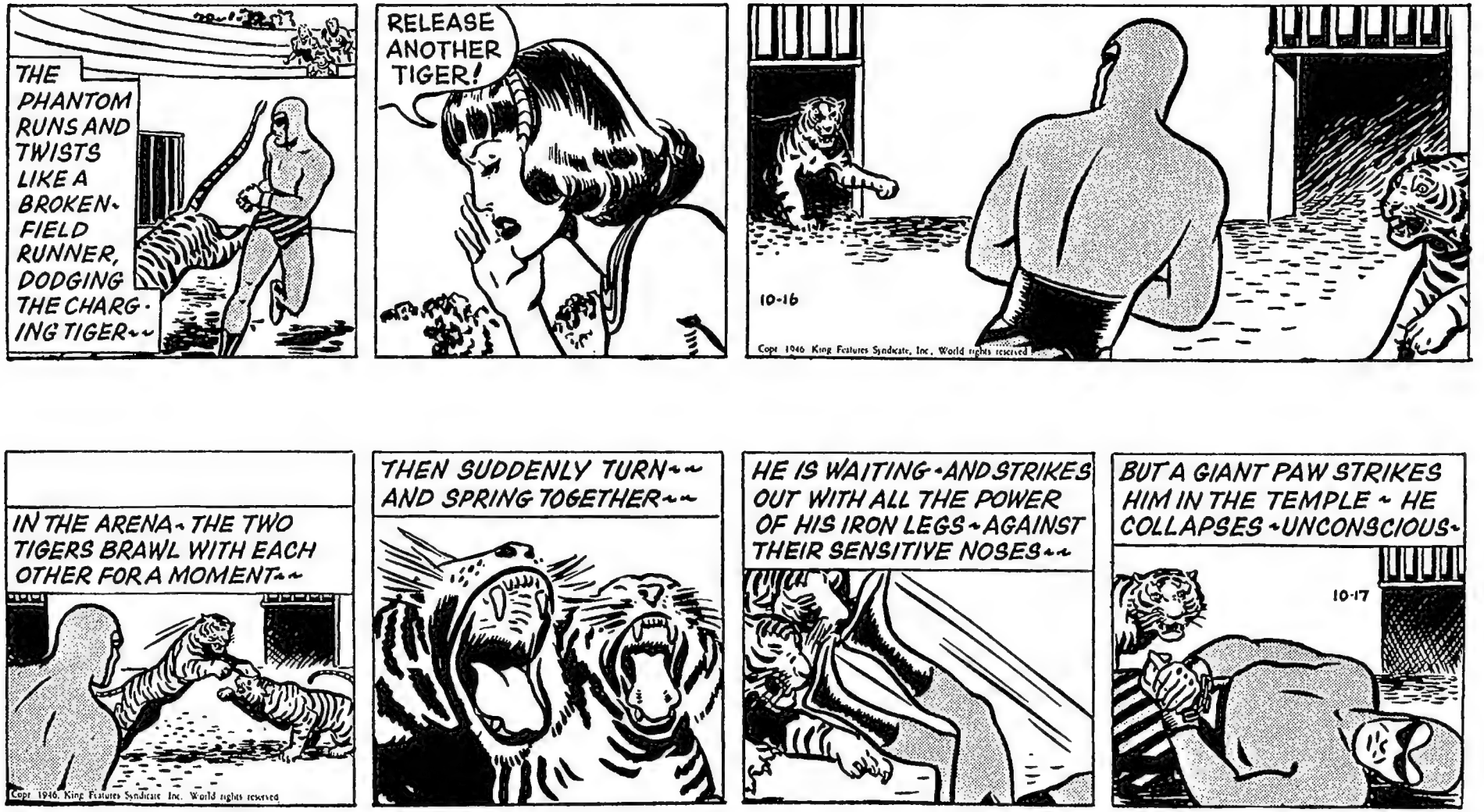
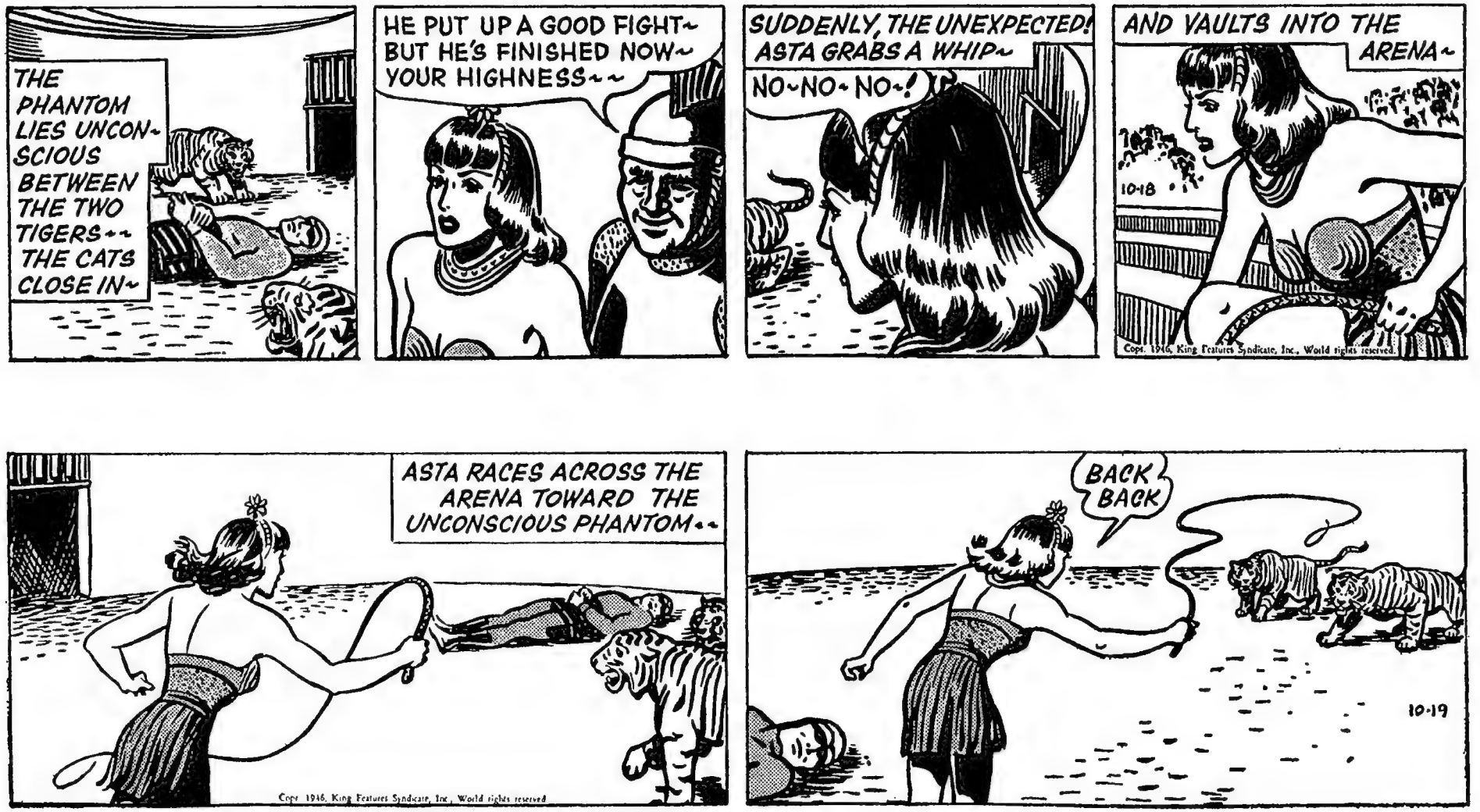

IN THE ARENA, THE PHANTOM THROWS ONE OF THE GIANT HORSES~
HE HURRIEDLY SNAPS THE ROPES AS IF THEY WERE BURNT THREADS~~
MIKE CATCHES CONNIE AS SHE FAINTS~~
UHH~~
CONNIE~ DARLING
10-7
AND THE SECOND WILD HORSE REARS UP ON THE PHANTOM WITH SHARP HOOFS DARTING LIKE TWIN AXES!
Copr. 1946, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved.
IN THE ARENA, THE PHANTOM DARTS ALONGSIDE THE WILD HORSE~~
~VAULTS TO THE GIANT'S BACK AND BRINGS IT UNDER CONTROL FOR THE FIRST TIME IN ITS WILD LIFE~~
10-8
THEN SPEEDS TOWARDS ASTA~~
STOP HIM~ STOP HIM~~
Copr. 1946, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved.
~AND SNATCHES THE PROUD QUEEN BEFORE HER GUARDS CAN MAKE A MOVE!
NO ~ NO~~

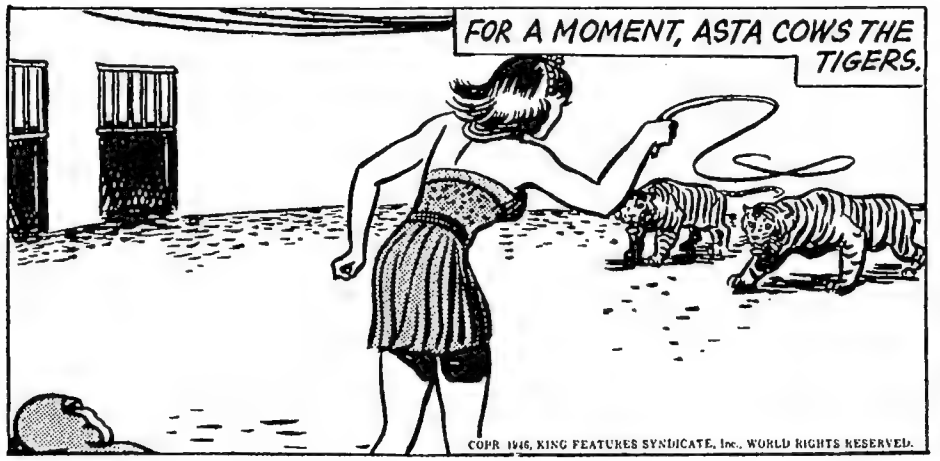

FOOL ~ WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
TAKING YOU TO JUSTICE, ASTA!
HE SPEEDS TOWARDS THE OPEN GATE AT THE END OF THE ARENA~
MAY MAKE IT~
10-9
HURRY~ LOWER THE GATE!
Copr. 1946, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved
THE GATE CRASHES DOWN~ THEY REACH IT~ JUST TOO LATE~~
DIDN'T~~
DON'T TOUCH ME. I CAN GET UP BY MYSELF!
ASTA IS SHAKING WITH FURY~ SHE'S BEEN DRAGGED ACROSS THE ARENA~ BOUNCED ON THE GROUND~
YOU TRIED HARD. YOU DIDN'T MAKE IT! YOU ONLY DELAYED THE DEATHS OF MIKE AND CONNIE! AS FOR YOU~~
Copr. 1946, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved
YOU DEFIED ME~AND HUMILIATED ME~BEFORE MY PEOPLE. FOR THIS, YOU MUST DIE!
10-10


I WANT TO USE THE BIGGEST TIGER~THAT ONE!
Copr 1946, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved
YOU COULD HAVE HAD MY LOVE. INSTEAD, YOU WILL HAVE~ THE TIGER!
10-11
YOU WILL WATCH~AFTER WHICH~YOU WILL FOLLOW~
NO WAY TO BREAK THESE HANDCUFFS~TOO STRONG~~
THIS IS HORRIBLE~ LIKE A NIGHT-MARE! WHAT CAN WE DO, MIKE?
NOTHING.
RELEASE THE TIGER!
10-12
Copr 1946, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved.

IN THE ARENA, THE TIGER APPROACHES THE MANACLED PHANTOM CAUTIOUSLY~
THE PHANTOM SPEAKS SOFTLY. THE TIGER SNIFFS AT HIM~~
HELLO, PUSSY~ PUSSY~PUSSY~ PUSSY~~
SOMEBODY SLIPPED UP. HE'S JUST FINISHED FEEDING~ HE'S SLEEPY~~
10·14
Copr 1946, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved.
I'LL WAKE UP THAT SLEEPY CAT!
SHE DOES! THE WOUNDED BEAST ROARS WITH PAIN~~
Copr 1946, King Features Syndicate Inc., World rights reserved
WOUNDED~ HE'S BAD NOW~~
10·15
THE PHANTOM MOVES LIKE LIGHTNING~ THE TIGER CRASHES AGAINST THE WALL~
I CAN KEEP THIS UP JUST SO LONG~~


THE PHANTOM RUNS AND TWISTS LIKE A BROKEN-FIELD RUNNER, DODGING THE CHARGING TIGER...
RELEASE ANOTHER TIGER!
10-16
Copr 1946 King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved
IN THE ARENA, THE TWO TIGERS BRAWL WITH EACH OTHER FOR A MOMENT...
Copr 1946, King Features Syndicate Inc. World rights reserved
THEN SUDDENLY TURN... AND SPRING TOGETHER...
HE IS WAITING, AND STRIKES OUT WITH ALL THE POWER OF HIS IRON LEGS, AGAINST THEIR SENSITIVE NOSES...
BUT A GIANT PAW STRIKES HIM IN THE TEMPLE, HE COLLAPSES, UNCONSCIOUS.
10-17


THE PHANTOM LIES UNCONSCIOUS BETWEEN THE TWO TIGERS-- THE CATS CLOSE IN~
HE PUT UP A GOOD FIGHT~ BUT HE'S FINISHED NOW~ YOUR HIGHNESS~~
SUDDENLY, THE UNEXPECTED! ASTA GRABS A WHIP~
NO~NO~NO~!
AND VAULTS INTO THE ARENA~
10-18
Copr. 1946, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved.
ASTA RACES ACROSS THE ARENA TOWARD THE UNCONSCIOUS PHANTOM--
Copr. 1946, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved.
BACK BACK
10-19


FOR A MOMENT, ASTA COWS THE TIGERS.
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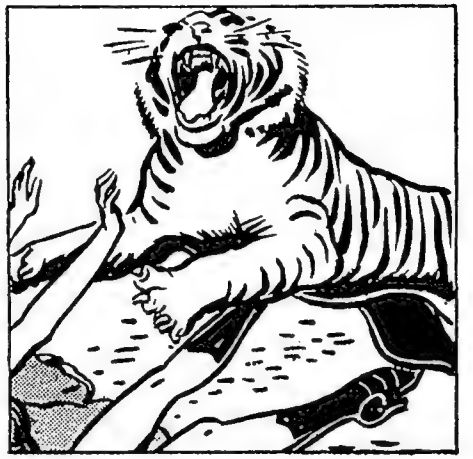
ONE TIGER STARTS TOWARDS HER ~ SHE TAKES A HURRIED BACKWARD STEP ~ TRIPPING OVER THE PHANTOM ~~
10-21



AS ASTA FALLS ON THE UNCONSCIOUS PHANTOM ~~ AND TAKES THE BRUNT OF THE TIGER ATTACK ~

THE ONLOOKERS STARE ~ FROZEN IN HORROR ~~
SHOOT, YOU FOOLS!
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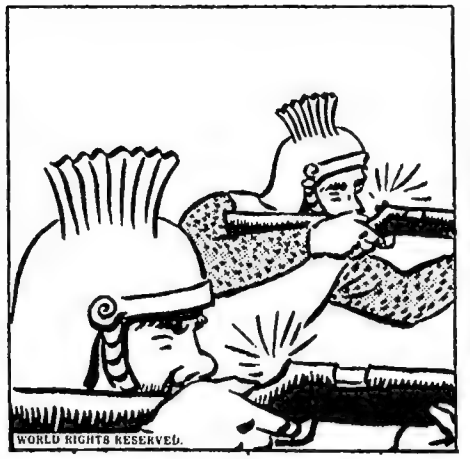
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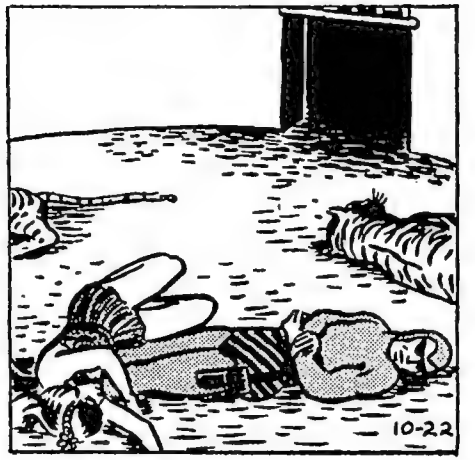
10-22

I'M OKAY. I WAS LUCKY ~ NOT EVEN SCRATCHED ~ JUST A BUMP ~ HOW'S ASTA?

SHE'S IN A BAD WAY. SHE TRIED TO SAVE YOU ~~ AND COVERED YOU WHEN THE TIGERS LEAPED ~~
I KNOW. I WAS HALF ~ CONSCIOUS.
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WHY DID SHE DO IT?
I DON'T KNOW. SHE'S A STRANGE GIRL ~~
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED.
10-23

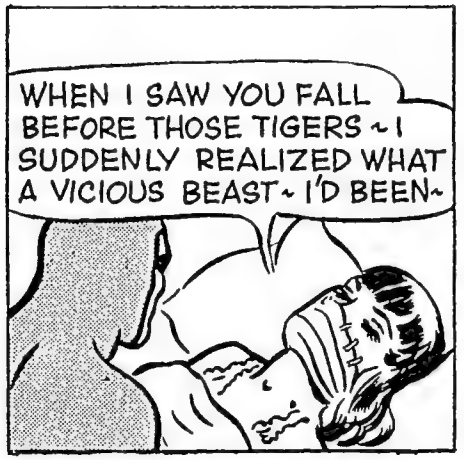
HER HIGHNESS WANTS TO SEE YOU. SHE'S BADLY INJURED ~

ASTA ~~
COPR. 1946, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.

YOU SAVED MY LIFE ~~
AFTER TRYING TO KILL YOU. THEY TELL ME ~ I'LL NEVER WALK AGAIN ~~
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED.

AND MY BEAUTY ~ MY BEAUTY IS RUINED ~ MY FACE ~~

WHY DID YOU DO IT, ASTA?
10-24


WHEN I SAW YOU FALL BEFORE THOSE TIGERS ~ I SUDDENLY REALIZED WHAT A VICIOUS BEAST ~ I'D BEEN ~

~ I REALIZED THAT I WAS NOT A WOMAN ~ ONLY A SPOILED CHILD ~ WITH UNLIMITED POWER ~~
COPR. 1946, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.

~ I REALIZED THAT AT LAST I WAS TRULY IN LOVE ~~ THAT I LOVED YOU MORE THAN MYSELF ~~
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED

GOOD-BYE ASTA.
THINK OF ME, SOMETIMES ~
10-25

IN SPITE OF WHAT ASTA DID ~ I FEEL SORRY FOR HER ~~
SHE RECEIVED HER PUNISHMENT ~ STRANGE, WILD GIRL ~~
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NOW, DARLING, BACK TO BENGALI ~ TO TAKE UP FROM WHERE WE WERE SUDDENLY INTERRUPTED ~ MARRIAGE ~ AT ONCE!
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED

WE CAN NEVER THANK YOU ENOUGH ~~ GOOD-BYE ~~
GOOD-BYE, GOOD LUCK ~ TO BOTH OF YOU ~~

GOOD-BYE, ASTA QUEEN OF TRONDELAY ~~
10-26

Chapter Three: Mister Hog

the PHANTOM®

FAREWELL, MEN OF BANDAR. KEEP PEACE IN THE JUNGLE UNTIL I RETURN
BEGINNING: "MISTER HOG"

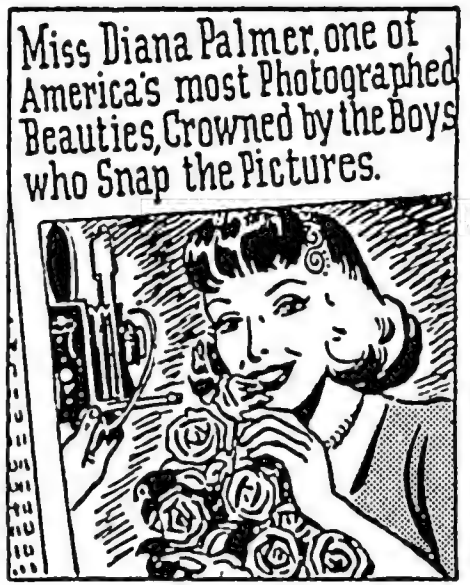
DIANA'S HALFWAY ROUND THE WORLD - BUT WE'RE GOING TO SEE HER - AT LAST!

WONDER IF SHE STILL REMEMBERS ME - MAYBE SHE'S FORGOTTEN - GIDDAP, HERO!

MAYBE SHE'S GOT ANOTHER SWEETHEART - ! WOW - GET GOING, BOY!
10-28
TOMORROW - DIANA -

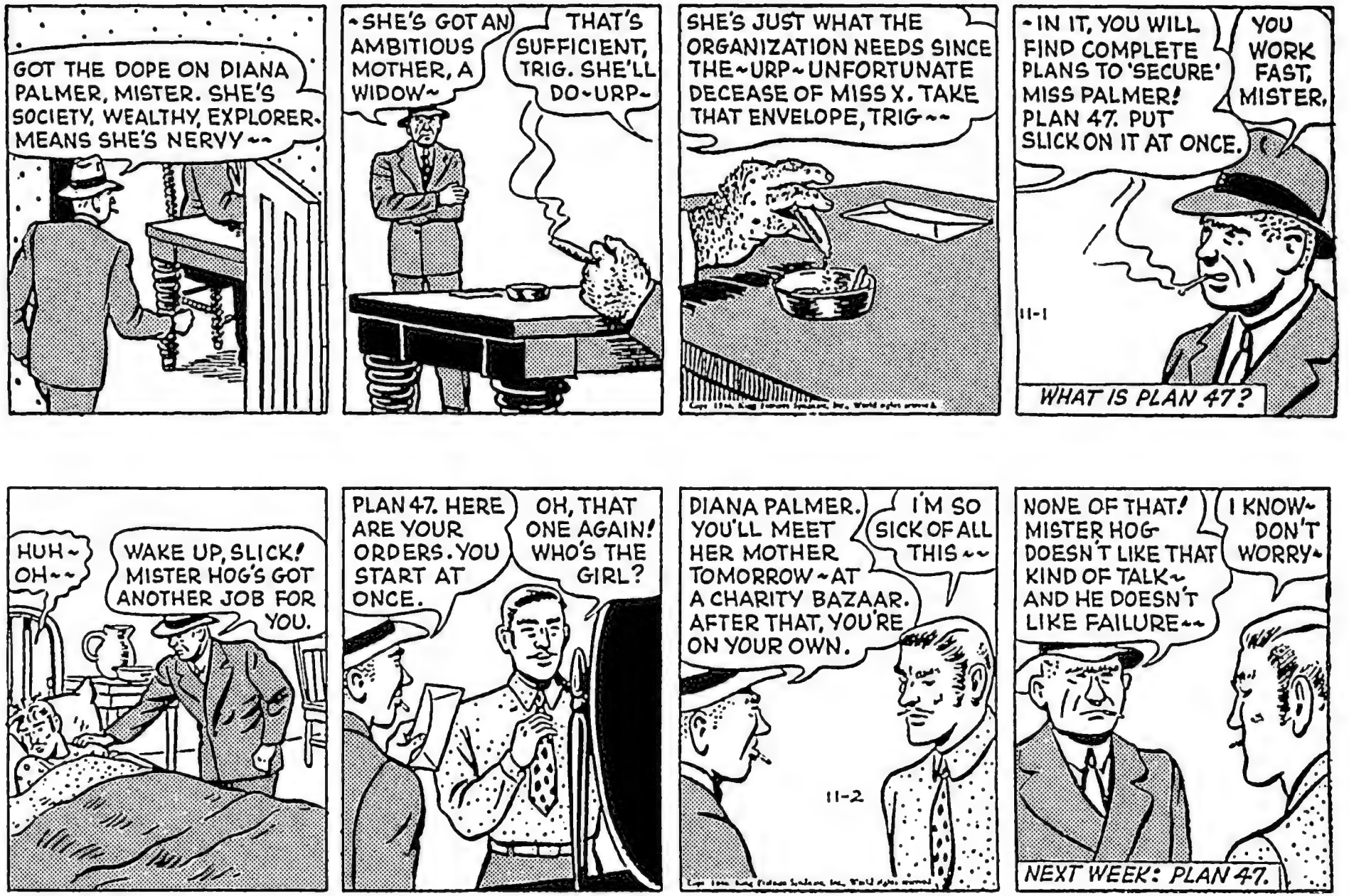
Diana Palmer, Socialite, Explorer and Sportswoman, Winning Brattle Steeple-chase, Held Yesterday.

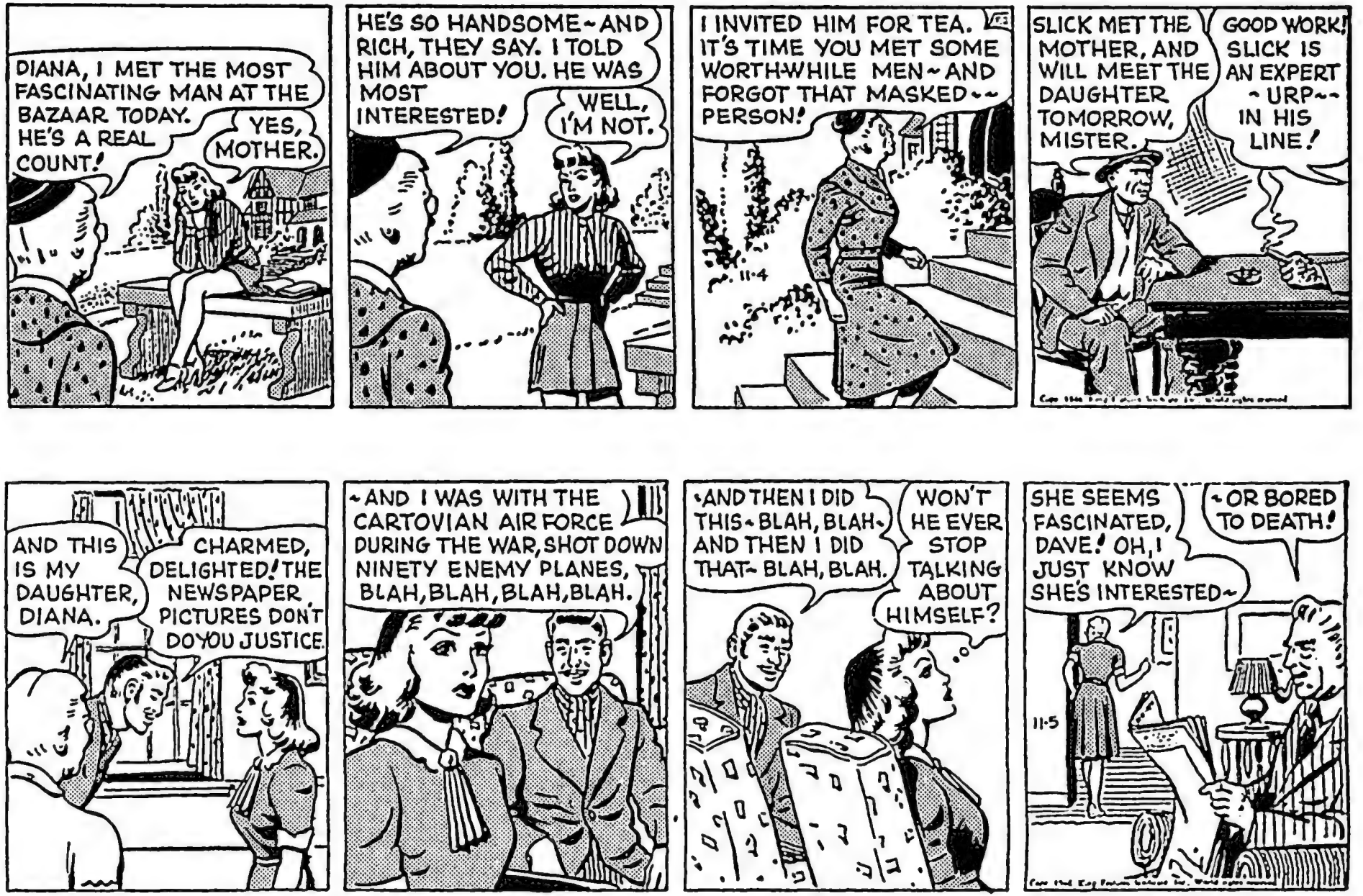
Miss Diana Palmer, winne the Famous Miss Atlant Beauty Contest, smiles a she receives the Crow

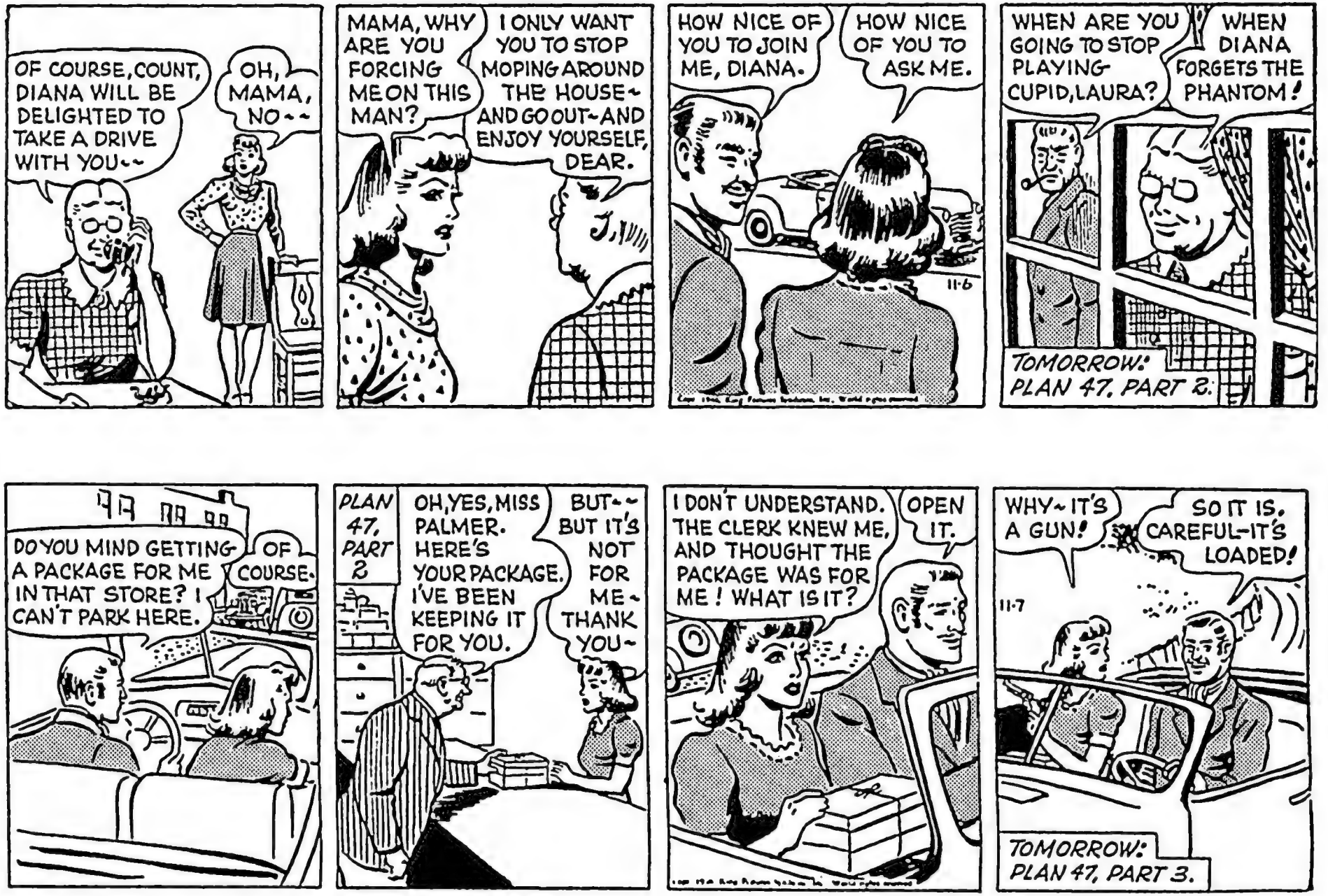

Miss Diana Palmer, one of America's most Photographed Beauties, Crowned by the Boys who Snap the Pictures.

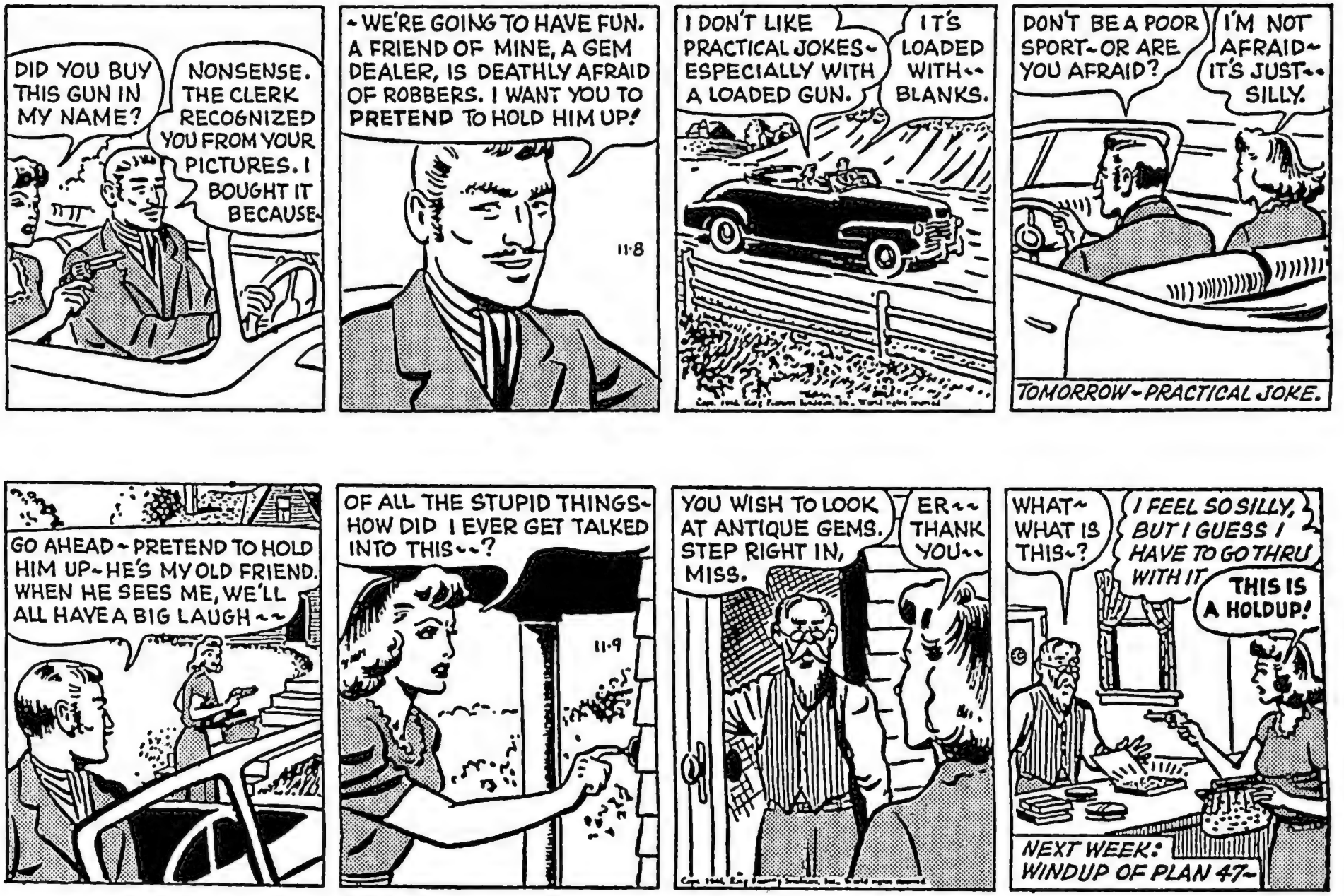
THIS PALMER GIRL HAS TALENT, TRIG. WE CAN USE HER. GET THE DETAILS.
OKAY, MISTER.
10-29

IN A BANK, JUST BEFORE CLOSING TIME--
DAYLIGHT BANK ROBBERY IN MOUNTING CRIME WAVE
GUARD SHOT, UNKNOWN THIEVES ESCAPE, HALF-MILLION LOOT
Prompt police action was demanded by Civic Leaders to halt the wave of unsolved criminal actions
TELL YOUR PAPERS WE'RE DOING THE BEST WE CAN. THESE AREN'T ORDINARY CRIMES. THEY'RE ALL LINKED. THERE'S A MASTER MIND WORKING--
NOW THEY'RE CALLING YOU A MASTER MIND, MISTER.
IT'S TIME MY TALENTS WERE RECOGNIZED-URP--
10-30
WELL, DIANA! YOU'RE MAKING QUITE A STIR! IN THE PAPERS EVERY DAY. WINNING BEAUTY CONTESTS, HORSE RACES, TENNIS MATCHES--
IT'S JUST SOMETHING TO DO, UNCLE DAVE. I GET SO BORED-AND LONELY.
HMM- MOONING DAY AND NIGHT ABOUT THAT MASKED PERSON- THAT PHANTOM- THAT ADVENTURER- HE'LL NEVER COME BACK--
IT'S TIME YOU WENT OUT WITH OTHER MEN-AND FORGOT HIM. IT'S TIME--
PLEASE, MAMA--
10-31


GOT THE DOPE ON DIANA PALMER, MISTER. SHE'S SOCIETY, WEALTHY, EXPLORER. MEANS SHE'S NERVY~~
~SHE'S GOT AN AMBITIOUS MOTHER, A WIDOW~
THAT'S SUFFICIENT, TRIG. SHE'LL DO~URP~
SHE'S JUST WHAT THE ORGANIZATION NEEDS SINCE THE~URP~UNFORTUNATE DECEASE OF MISS X. TAKE THAT ENVELOPE, TRIG~~
~IN IT, YOU WILL FIND COMPLETE PLANS TO 'SECURE' MISS PALMER! PLAN 47. PUT SLICK ON IT AT ONCE.
YOU WORK FAST, MISTER.
11-1
WHAT IS PLAN 47?
HUH~ OH~~
WAKE UP, SLICK! MISTER HOG'S GOT ANOTHER JOB FOR YOU.
PLAN 47. HERE ARE YOUR ORDERS. YOU START AT ONCE.
OH, THAT ONE AGAIN! WHO'S THE GIRL?
DIANA PALMER. YOU'LL MEET HER MOTHER TOMORROW~AT A CHARITY BAZAAR. AFTER THAT, YOU'RE ON YOUR OWN.
I'M SO SICK OF ALL THIS~~
11-2
NONE OF THAT! MISTER HOG DOESN'T LIKE THAT KIND OF TALK~ AND HE DOESN'T LIKE FAILURE~~
I KNOW~ DON'T WORRY~
NEXT WEEK: PLAN 47.

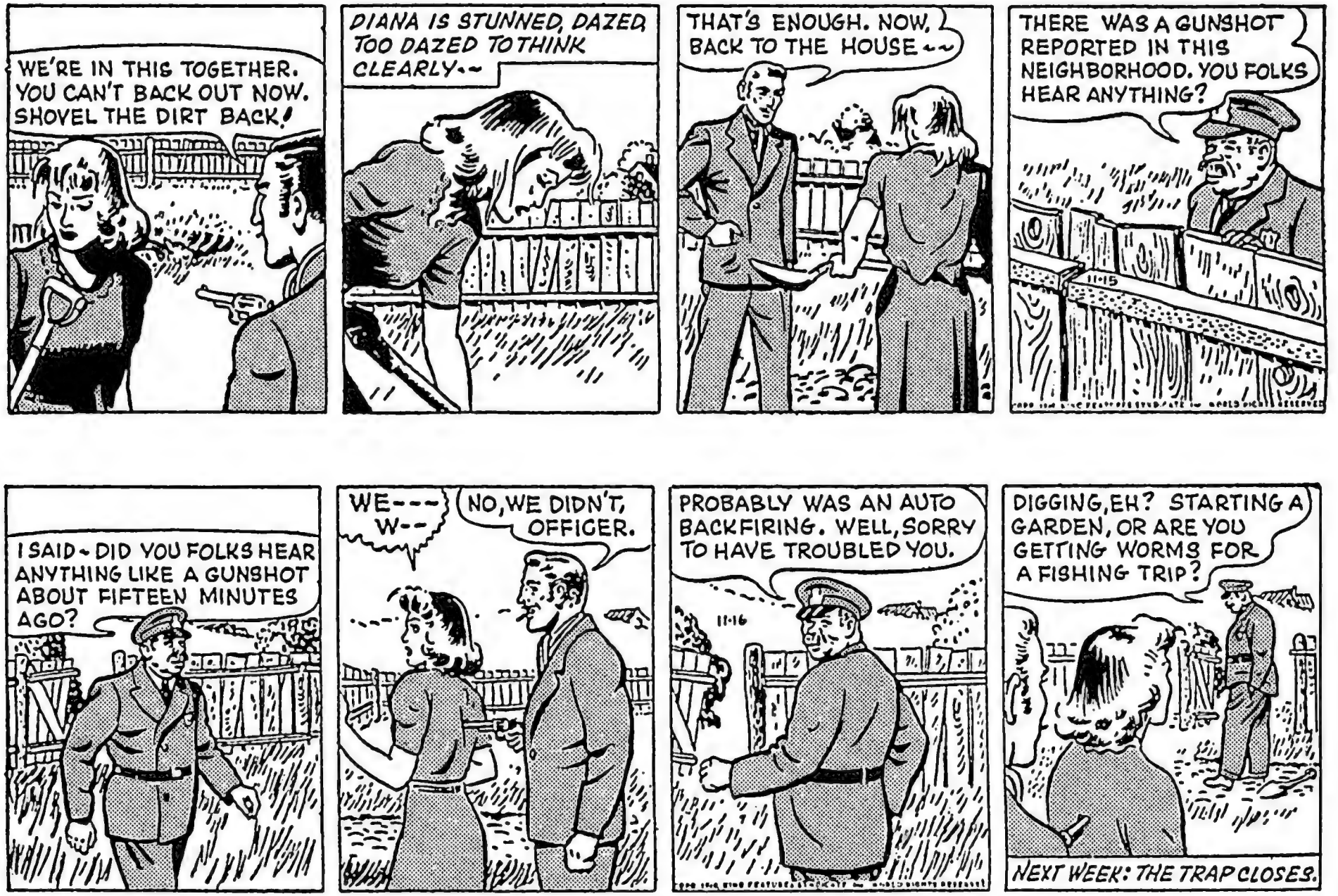

DIANA, I MET THE MOST FASCINATING MAN AT THE BAZAAR TODAY. HE'S A REAL COUNT!
YES, MOTHER.
HE'S SO HANDSOME~AND RICH, THEY SAY. I TOLD HIM ABOUT YOU. HE WAS MOST INTERESTED!
WELL, I'M NOT.
I INVITED HIM FOR TEA. IT'S TIME YOU MET SOME WORTH-WHILE MEN~AND FORGOT THAT MASKED~~ PERSON!
11-4
SLICK MET THE MOTHER, AND WILL MEET THE DAUGHTER TOMORROW, MISTER.
GOOD WORK! SLICK IS AN EXPERT ~URP~~ IN HIS LINE!
AND THIS IS MY DAUGHTER, DIANA.
CHARMED, DELIGHTED! THE NEWSPAPER PICTURES DON'T DO YOU JUSTICE.
~AND I WAS WITH THE CARTOVIAN AIR FORCE DURING THE WAR, SHOT DOWN NINETY ENEMY PLANES, BLAH, BLAH, BLAH, BLAH.
~AND THEN I DID THIS~BLAH, BLAH~ AND THEN I DID THAT~BLAH, BLAH.
WON'T HE EVER STOP TALKING ABOUT HIMSELF?
SHE SEEMS FASCINATED, DAVE! OH, I JUST KNOW SHE'S INTERESTED~
~OR BORED TO DEATH!
11-5

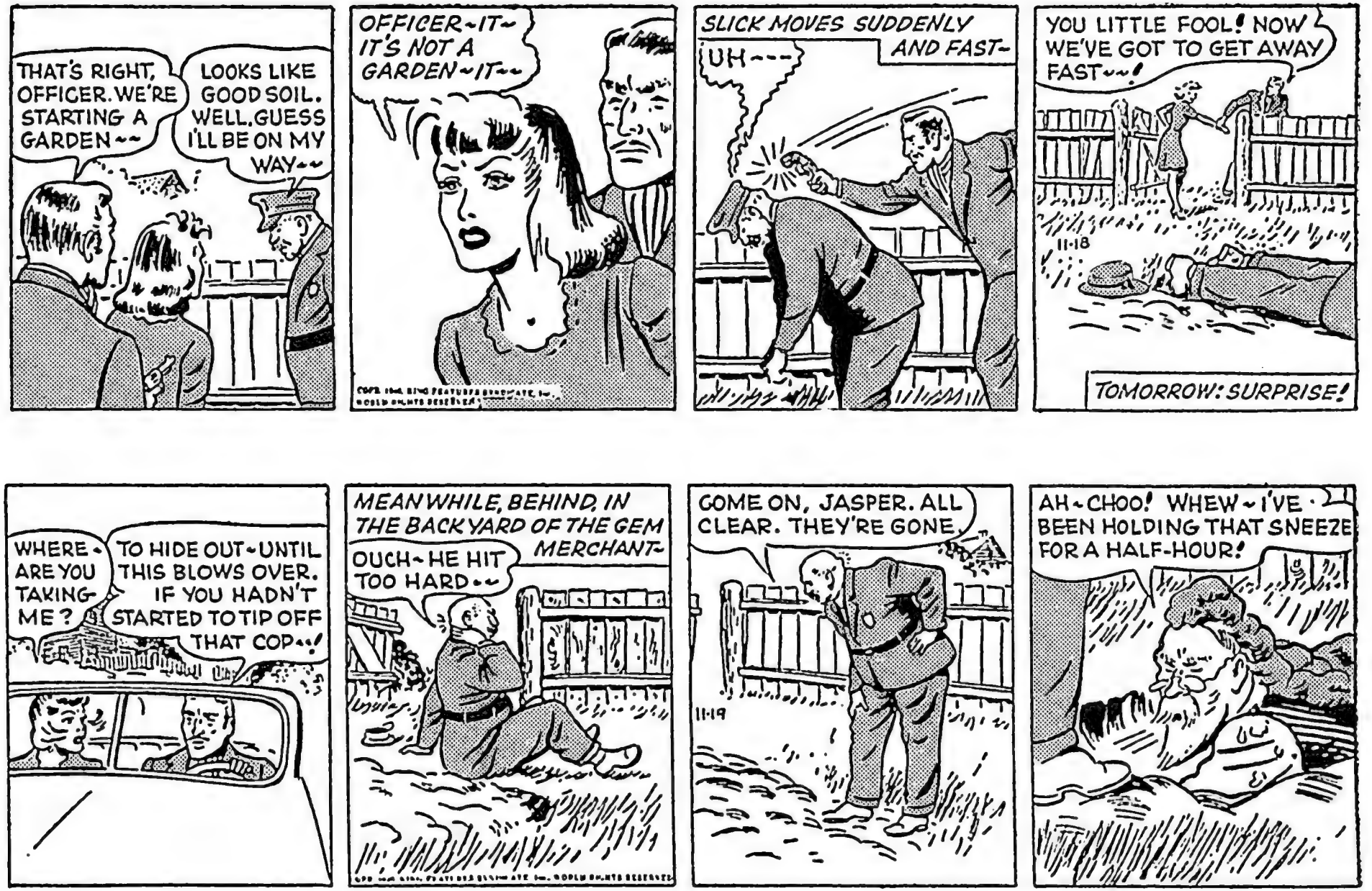

OF COURSE, COUNT, DIANA WILL BE DELIGHTED TO TAKE A DRIVE WITH YOU--
OH, MAMA, NO--
MAMA, WHY ARE YOU FORCING ME ON THIS MAN?
I ONLY WANT YOU TO STOP MOPING AROUND THE HOUSE- AND GO OUT- AND ENJOY YOURSELF, DEAR.
HOW NICE OF YOU TO JOIN ME, DIANA.
HOW NICE OF YOU TO ASK ME.
11-6
WHEN ARE YOU GOING TO STOP PLAYING CUPID, LAURA?
WHEN DIANA FORGETS THE PHANTOM!
TOMORROW: PLAN 47, PART 2.
DO YOU MIND GETTING A PACKAGE FOR ME IN THAT STORE? I CAN'T PARK HERE.
OF COURSE.
PLAN 47, PART 2
OH, YES, MISS PALMER. HERE'S YOUR PACKAGE. I'VE BEEN KEEPING IT FOR YOU.
BUT-- BUT IT'S NOT FOR ME- THANK YOU-
I DON'T UNDERSTAND. THE CLERK KNEW ME, AND THOUGHT THE PACKAGE WAS FOR ME! WHAT IS IT?
OPEN IT.
WHY- IT'S A GUN!
SO IT IS. CAREFUL- IT'S LOADED!
11-7
TOMORROW: PLAN 47, PART 3.

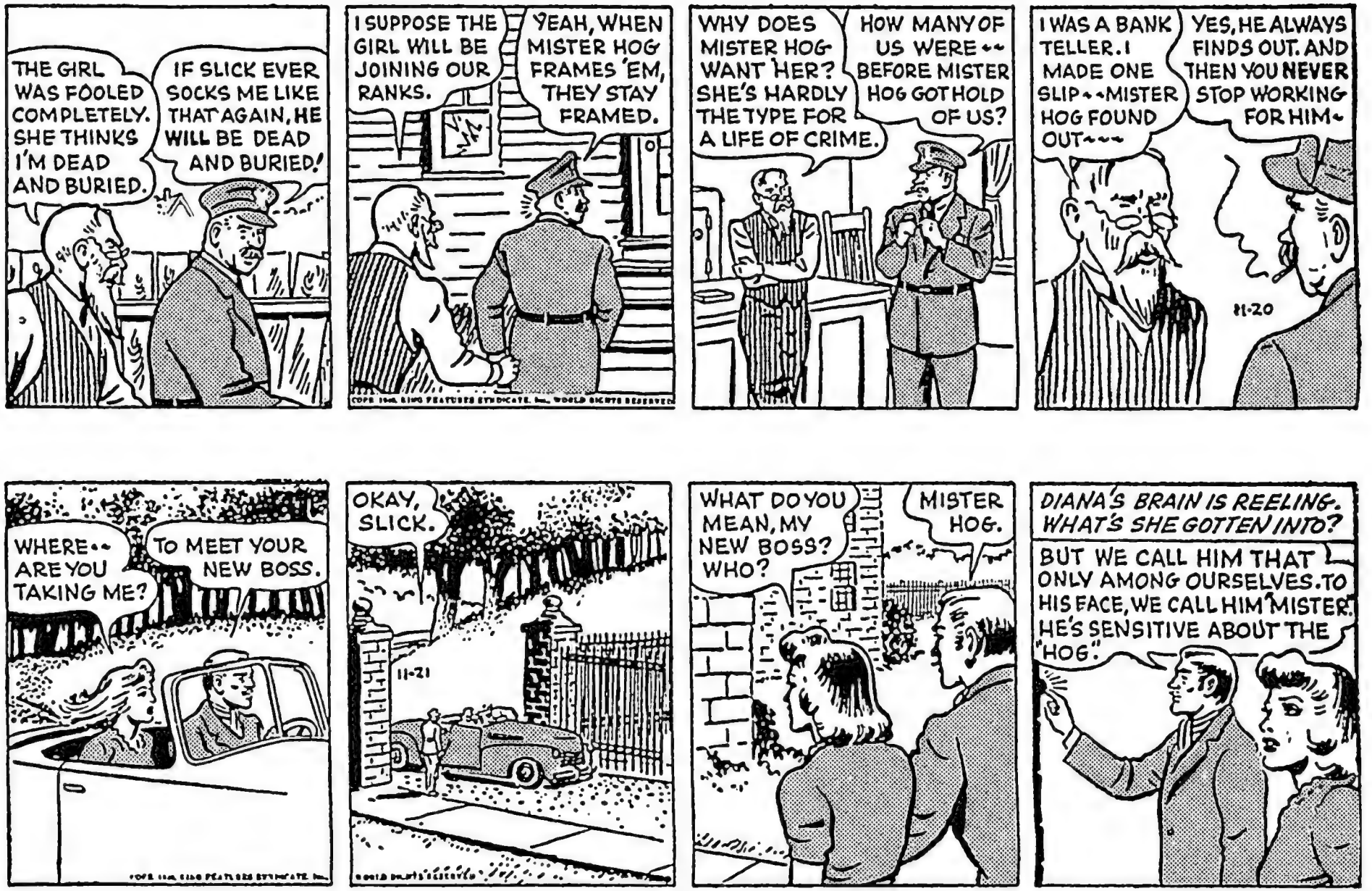

DID YOU BUY THIS GUN IN MY NAME?
NONSENSE. THE CLERK RECOGNIZED YOU FROM YOUR PICTURES. I BOUGHT IT BECAUSE-
-WE'RE GOING TO HAVE FUN. A FRIEND OF MINE, A GEM DEALER, IS DEATHLY AFRAID OF ROBBERS. I WANT YOU TO PRETEND TO HOLD HIM UP!
11·8
I DON'T LIKE PRACTICAL JOKES- ESPECIALLY WITH A LOADED GUN.
IT'S LOADED WITH-- BLANKS.
DON'T BE A POOR SPORT-OR ARE YOU AFRAID?
I'M NOT AFRAID- IT'S JUST-- SILLY.
TOMORROW-PRACTICAL JOKE.
GO AHEAD-PRETEND TO HOLD HIM UP-HE'S MY OLD FRIEND. WHEN HE SEES ME, WE'LL ALL HAVE A BIG LAUGH--
OF ALL THE STUPID THINGS- HOW DID I EVER GET TALKED INTO THIS--?
11·9
YOU WISH TO LOOK AT ANTIQUE GEMS. STEP RIGHT IN, MISS.
ER-- THANK YOU--
WHAT- WHAT IS THIS-?
I FEEL SO SILLY, BUT I GUESS I HAVE TO GO THRU WITH IT.
THIS IS A HOLDUP!
NEXT WEEK: WINDUP OF PLAN 47-

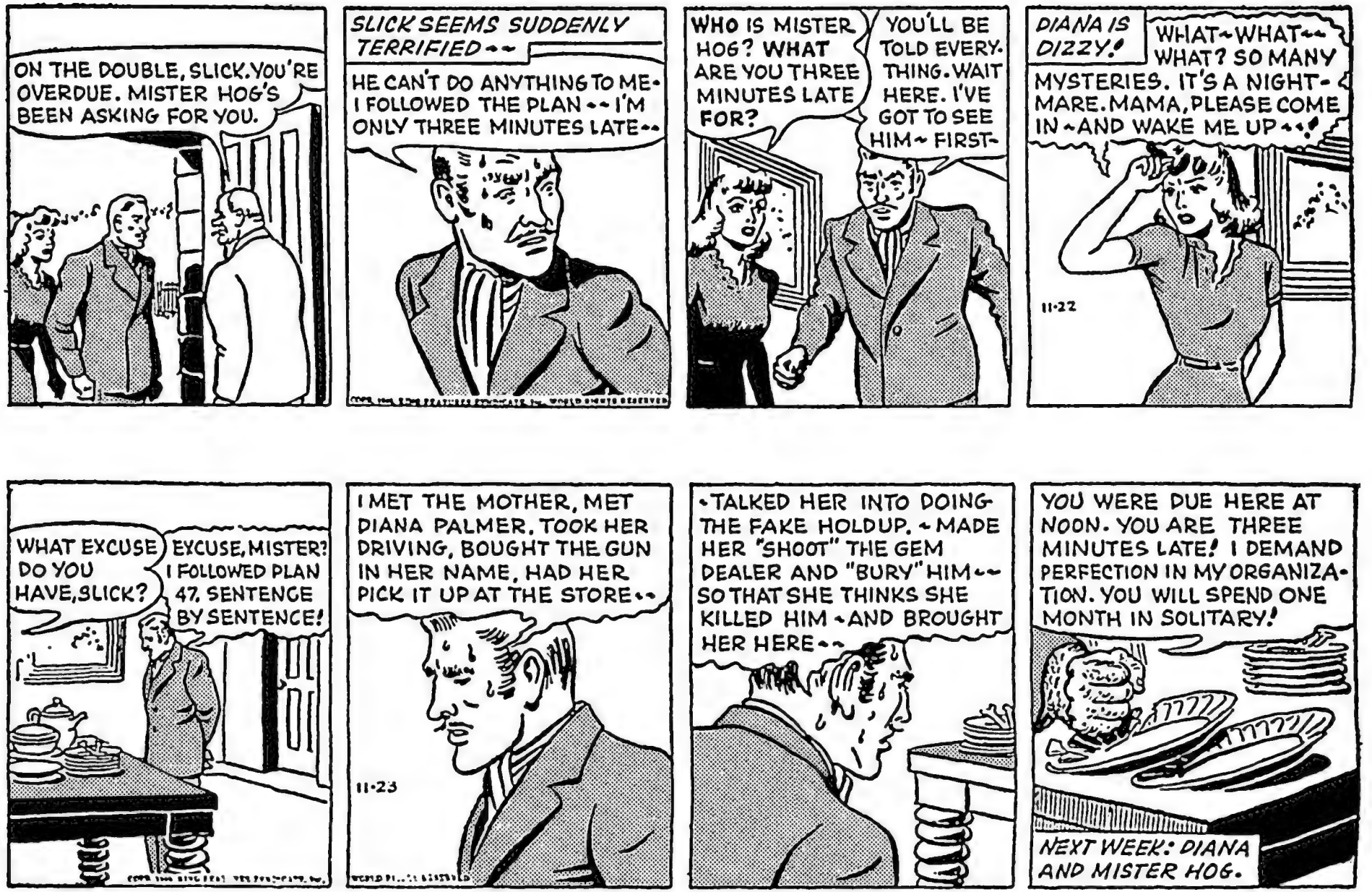
WHAT-WHAT DOES THIS MEAN--?
JUST WHAT I SAID-A HOLDUP!
THIS IS EMBARRASSING! I WISH THE COUNT WOULD COME, SO HIS FRIEND WOULD SEE HIM- AND END THIS PRACTICAL JOKE! AH-HE'S COMING-
YOU WON'T GET AWAY WITH THIS- EITHER OF YOU--!
GOOD WORK, DIANA. KEEP THE GUN ON HIM!
WHAT! (THE OLD MAN DOESN'T KNOW THE COUNT- WHAT IS THIS?)
HAND OVER THE KEYS OF YOUR STRONGBOX! HURRY!
BUT-- BUT--
I WON'T! GET OUT! GET OUT! HELP-HELP!
BEFORE DIANA REALIZES WHAT IS HAPPENING, SLICK PRESSES HER TRIGGER FINGER--
11-12

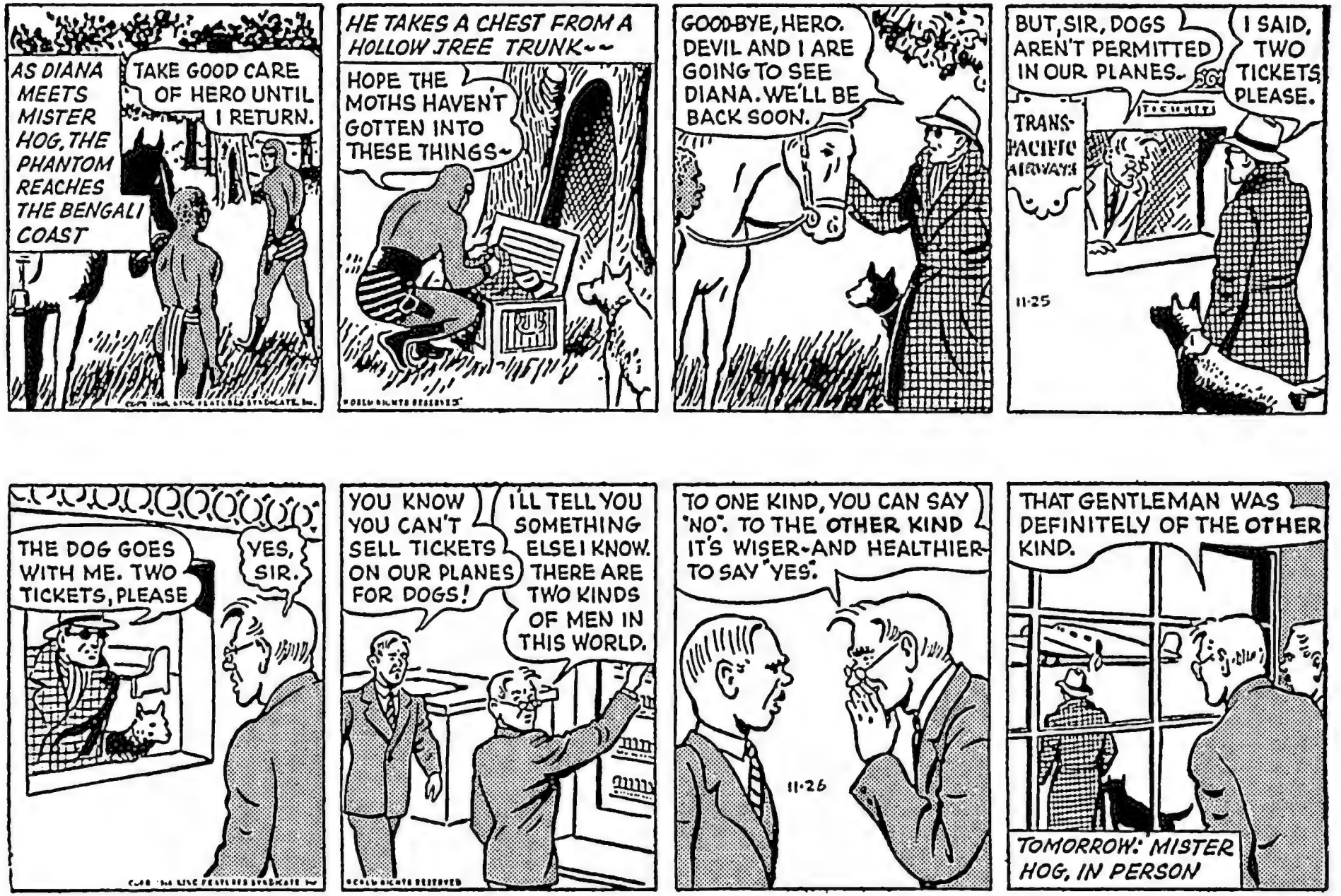
HE'S DEAD, ALRIGHT. SERVES THE OLD FOOL RIGHT.
YOU SAID~ THIS WAS A JOKE~ THAT HE WAS YOUR FRIEND~ THAT THE GUN WAS LOADED WITH BLANKS~ YOU MADE ME SHOOT~ HIM~~
11-13
STOP YOUR BLUBBERING! THIS IS THE REAL THING, AND YOU'RE IN ON IT! HELP ME CARRY HIM OUT~~
NO~ NO~
YOU'RE A CHEAT~ AND A THIEF~ AND A KILLER~~
DO AS I SAY~ OR I'LL LET YOU HAVE ONE OF THESE "BLANKS!"
HERE'S A SHOVEL. START DIGGING.
AFTER WE'VE COVERED HIM UP, THERE'LL BE PLENTY OF TIME TO FIND HIS STRONG-BOX AND CASH.
(THIS IS A NIGHTMARE~~ IT'S NOT REAL~~I'LL WAKE UP~I HAVE TO WAKE UP~~)
THAT'S DEEP ENOUGH.
I WON'T GO ON WITH THIS! YOU CAN SHOOT ME~!
11-14


WE'RE IN THIS TOGETHER. YOU CAN'T BACK OUT NOW. SHOVEL THE DIRT BACK!
DIANA IS STUNNED, DAZED, TOO DAZED TO THINK CLEARLY...
THAT'S ENOUGH. NOW, BACK TO THE HOUSE...
THERE WAS A GUNSHOT REPORTED IN THIS NEIGHBORHOOD. YOU FOLKS HEAR ANYTHING?
11-15
I SAID - DID YOU FOLKS HEAR ANYTHING LIKE A GUNSHOT ABOUT FIFTEEN MINUTES AGO?
WE--- W--
NO, WE DIDN'T, OFFICER.
PROBABLY WAS AN AUTO BACKFIRING. WELL, SORRY TO HAVE TROUBLED YOU.
11-16
DIGGING, EH? STARTING A GARDEN, OR ARE YOU GETTING WORMS FOR A FISHING TRIP?
NEXT WEEK: THE TRAP CLOSES.


THAT'S RIGHT, OFFICER. WE'RE STARTING A GARDEN~~
LOOKS LIKE GOOD SOIL. WELL, GUESS I'LL BE ON MY WAY~~
OFFICER~IT~ IT'S NOT A GARDEN~IT~~
SLICK MOVES SUDDENLY AND FAST~
UH~~~
YOU LITTLE FOOL! NOW WE'VE GOT TO GET AWAY FAST~~!
11-18
TOMORROW: SURPRISE!
WHERE~ ARE YOU TAKING ME?
TO HIDE OUT~UNTIL THIS BLOWS OVER. IF YOU HADN'T STARTED TO TIP OFF THAT COP~~!
MEANWHILE, BEHIND, IN THE BACKYARD OF THE GEM MERCHANT~
OUCH~HE HIT TOO HARD~~
COME ON, JASPER. ALL CLEAR. THEY'RE GONE.
11-19
AH~CHOO! WHEW~I'VE BEEN HOLDING THAT SNEEZE FOR A HALF-HOUR!

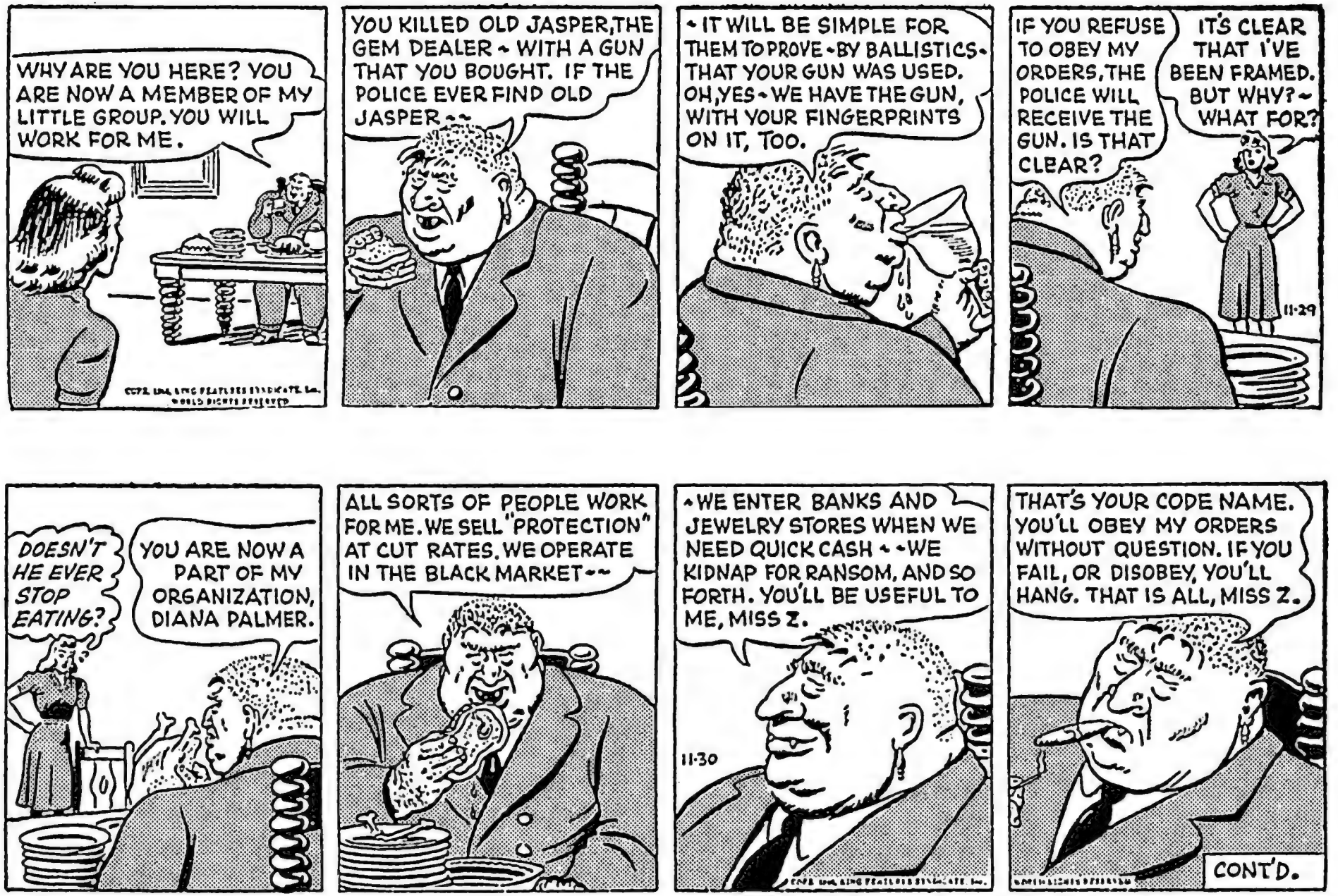

THE GIRL WAS FOOLED COMPLETELY. SHE THINKS I'M DEAD AND BURIED.
IF SLICK EVER SOCKS ME LIKE THAT AGAIN, HE WILL BE DEAD AND BURIED!
I SUPPOSE THE GIRL WILL BE JOINING OUR RANKS.
YEAH, WHEN MISTER HOG FRAMES 'EM, THEY STAY FRAMED.
WHY DOES MISTER HOG WANT HER? SHE'S HARDLY THE TYPE FOR A LIFE OF CRIME.
HOW MANY OF US WERE ... BEFORE MISTER HOG GOT HOLD OF US?
I WAS A BANK TELLER. I MADE ONE SLIP ... MISTER HOG FOUND OUT ...
YES, HE ALWAYS FINDS OUT. AND THEN YOU NEVER STOP WORKING FOR HIM.
11-20
WHERE ... ARE YOU TAKING ME?
TO MEET YOUR NEW BOSS.
OKAY, SLICK.
11-21
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, MY NEW BOSS? WHO?
MISTER HOG.
DIANA'S BRAIN IS REELING. WHAT'S SHE GOTTEN INTO?
BUT WE CALL HIM THAT ONLY AMONG OURSELVES. TO HIS FACE, WE CALL HIM "MISTER." HE'S SENSITIVE ABOUT THE "HOG."


ON THE DOUBLE, SLICK. YOU'RE OVERDUE. MISTER HOG'S BEEN ASKING FOR YOU.
SLICK SEEMS SUDDENLY TERRIFIED--
HE CAN'T DO ANYTHING TO ME- I FOLLOWED THE PLAN -- I'M ONLY THREE MINUTES LATE--
WHO IS MISTER HOG? WHAT ARE YOU THREE MINUTES LATE FOR?
YOU'LL BE TOLD EVERYTHING. WAIT HERE. I'VE GOT TO SEE HIM - FIRST-
DIANA IS DIZZY!
WHAT-WHAT-- WHAT? SO MANY MYSTERIES. IT'S A NIGHTMARE. MAMA, PLEASE COME IN - AND WAKE ME UP--!
11-22
WHAT EXCUSE DO YOU HAVE, SLICK?
EXCUSE, MISTER? I FOLLOWED PLAN 47, SENTENCE BY SENTENCE!
I MET THE MOTHER, MET DIANA PALMER. TOOK HER DRIVING, BOUGHT THE GUN IN HER NAME, HAD HER PICK IT UP AT THE STORE--
11-23
-TALKED HER INTO DOING THE FAKE HOLDUP. - MADE HER "SHOOT" THE GEM DEALER AND "BURY" HIM-- SO THAT SHE THINKS SHE KILLED HIM - AND BROUGHT HER HERE--
YOU WERE DUE HERE AT NOON. YOU ARE THREE MINUTES LATE! I DEMAND PERFECTION IN MY ORGANIZATION. YOU WILL SPEND ONE MONTH IN SOLITARY!
NEXT WEEK: DIANA AND MISTER HOG.

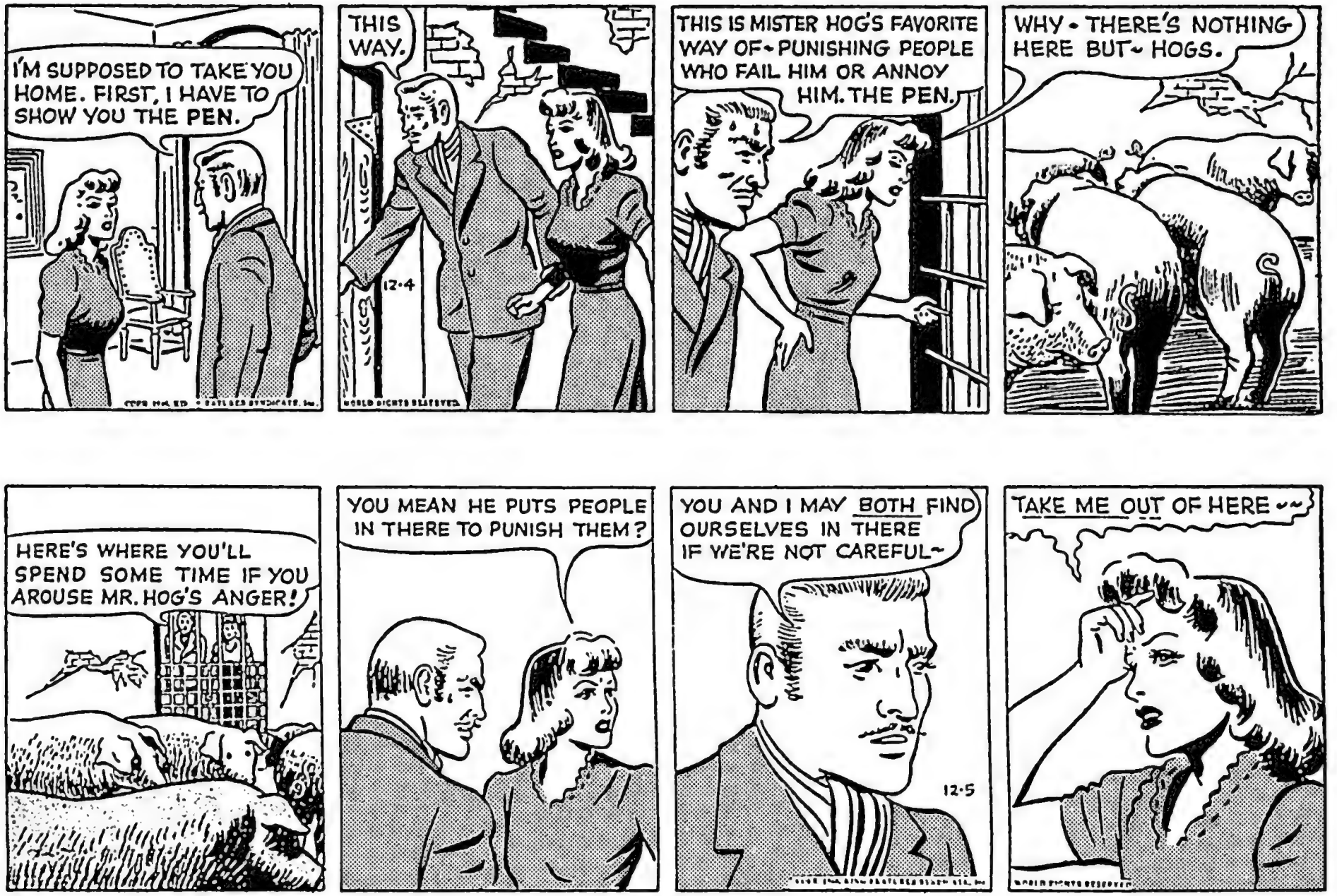

AS DIANA MEETS MISTER HOG, THE PHANTOM REACHES THE BENGALI COAST
TAKE GOOD CARE OF HERO UNTIL I RETURN.
HE TAKES A CHEST FROM A HOLLOW TREE TRUNK--
HOPE THE MOTHS HAVEN'T GOTTEN INTO THESE THINGS~
GOOD-BYE, HERO. DEVIL AND I ARE GOING TO SEE DIANA. WE'LL BE BACK SOON.
BUT, SIR, DOGS AREN'T PERMITTED IN OUR PLANES.
I SAID, TWO TICKETS, PLEASE.
TRANS-PACIFIC AIRWAYS
11-25
THE DOG GOES WITH ME. TWO TICKETS, PLEASE
YES, SIR.
YOU KNOW YOU CAN'T SELL TICKETS ON OUR PLANES FOR DOGS!
I'LL TELL YOU SOMETHING ELSE I KNOW. THERE ARE TWO KINDS OF MEN IN THIS WORLD.
TO ONE KIND, YOU CAN SAY "NO". TO THE OTHER KIND IT'S WISER-AND HEALTHIER-TO SAY "YES".
11-26
THAT GENTLEMAN WAS DEFINITELY OF THE OTHER KIND.
TOMORROW: MISTER HOG, IN PERSON

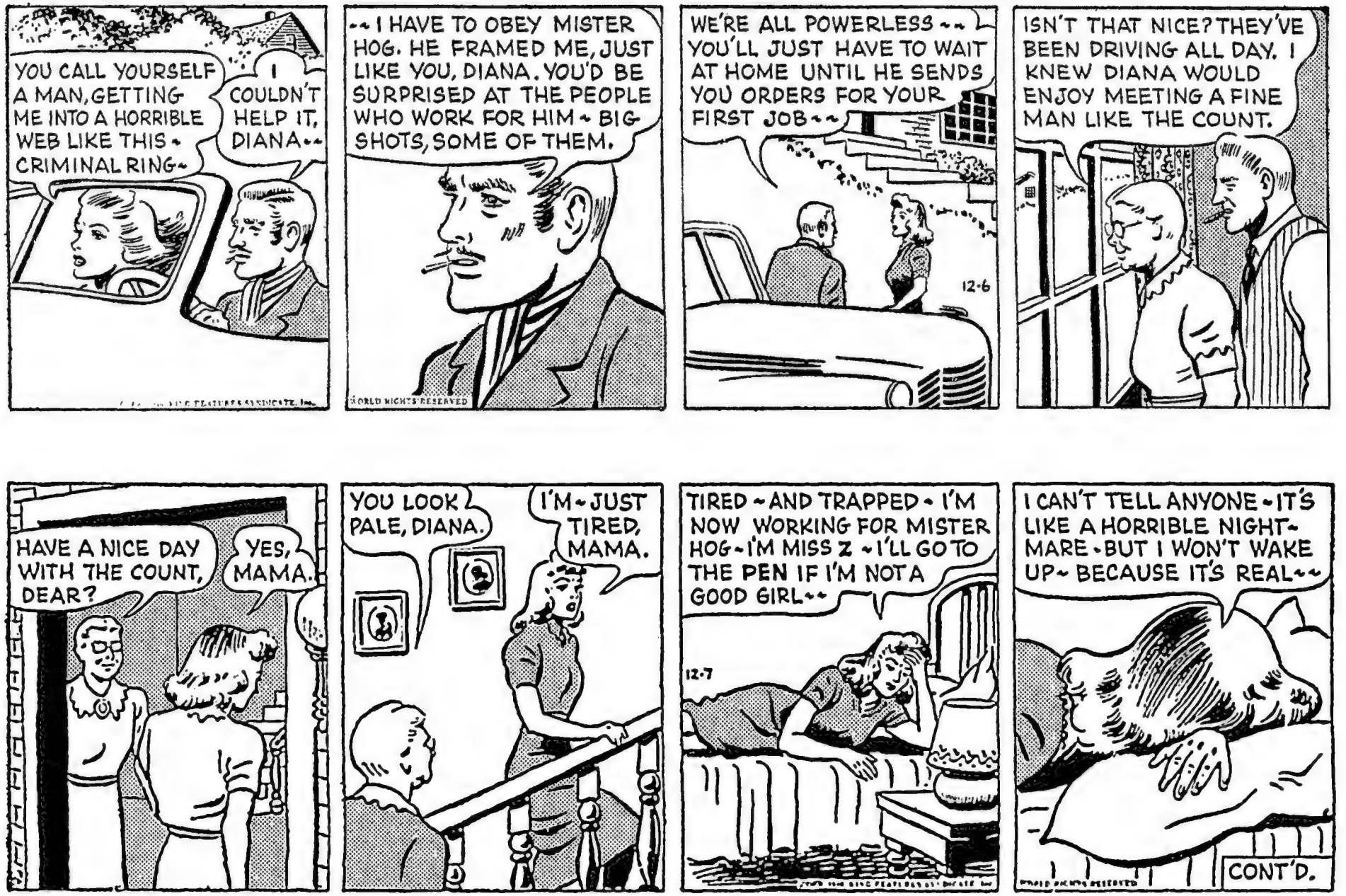
DIANA IS IN THE PALATIAL HIDE-OUT OF THE MYSTERIOUS MISTER HOG, WAITING TO LEARN WHY SHE'S THERE--
ALL THAT FOOD! THERE MUST BE A BANQUET IN THERE FOR A DOZEN PEOPLE!
MISTER WANTS TO SEE YOU NOW. GOOD LUCK. YOU'LL NEED IT.
NOT A DOZEN PEOPLE -- ONLY ONE! MISTER HOG!
COME IN, DIANA PALMER. AND CLOSE THE DOOR.
11-27

DIANA MEETS THE FATTEST MAN SHE'S EVER SEEN-
I'D ASK YOU TO BE SEATED, BUT MY EMPLOYEES HAVE A NICE CUSTOM OF STANDING IN MY PRESENCE.
YOUR EMPLOYEES? ARE YOU--?
MISTER HOG-YES, I'M AWARE OF WHAT MY EMPLOYEES CALL ME. QUITE ALL RIGHT. THE HOG IS A SUPERIOR ANIMAL.
I'D ASK YOU TO JOIN MIE, BUT I IMAGINE YOU'RE MORE NERVOUS THAN HUNGRY.
WHY AM I HERE?
11-28

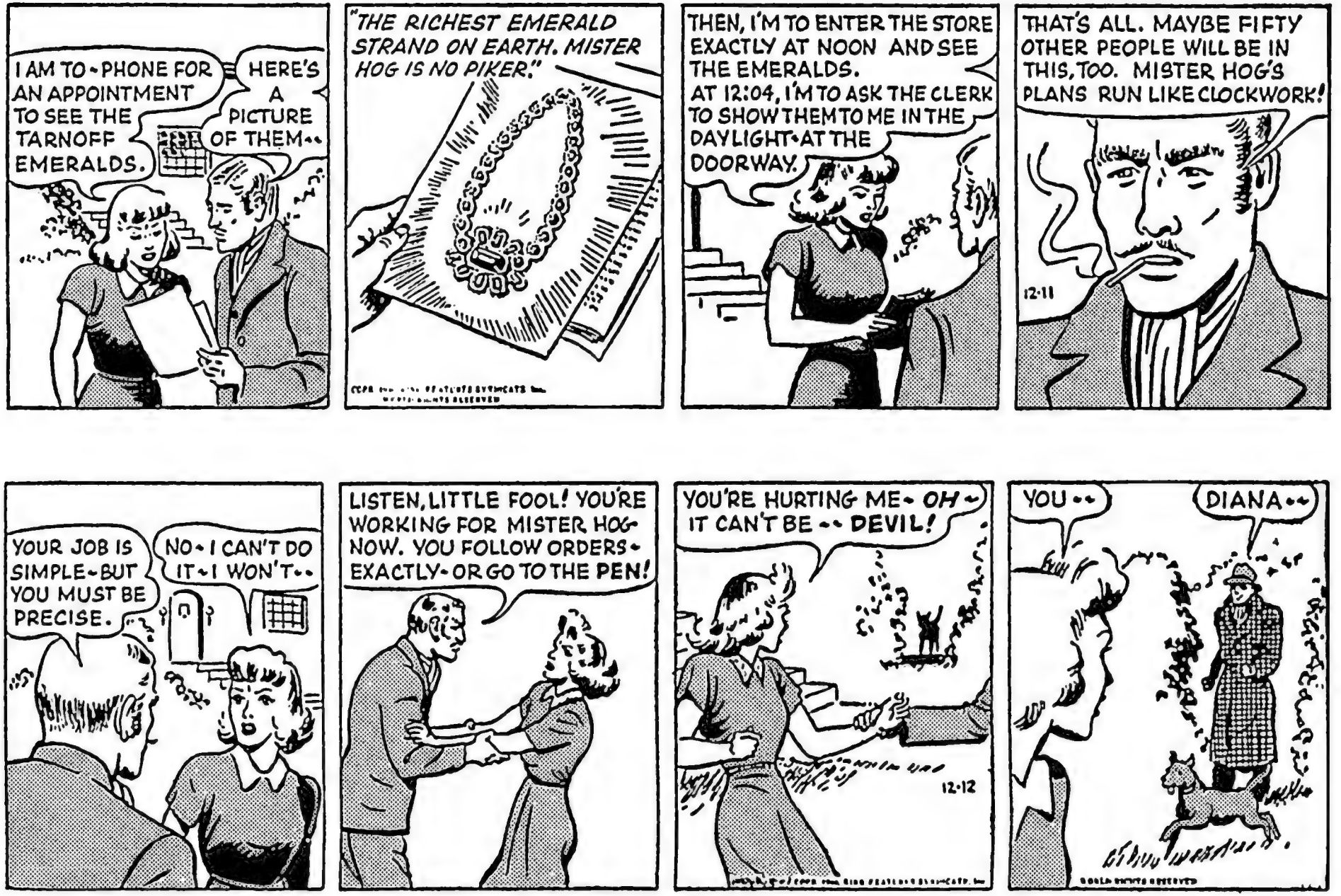

WHY ARE YOU HERE? YOU ARE NOW A MEMBER OF MY LITTLE GROUP. YOU WILL WORK FOR ME.
YOU KILLED OLD JASPER, THE GEM DEALER - WITH A GUN THAT YOU BOUGHT. IF THE POLICE EVER FIND OLD JASPER - -
- IT WILL BE SIMPLE FOR THEM TO PROVE - BY BALLISTICS - THAT YOUR GUN WAS USED. OH, YES - WE HAVE THE GUN, WITH YOUR FINGERPRINTS ON IT, TOO.
IF YOU REFUSE TO OBEY MY ORDERS, THE POLICE WILL RECEIVE THE GUN. IS THAT CLEAR?
IT'S CLEAR THAT I'VE BEEN FRAMED. BUT WHY? - WHAT FOR?
11-29
DOESN'T HE EVER STOP EATING?
YOU ARE NOW A PART OF MY ORGANIZATION, DIANA PALMER.
ALL SORTS OF PEOPLE WORK FOR ME. WE SELL "PROTECTION" AT CUT RATES. WE OPERATE IN THE BLACK MARKET - -
- WE ENTER BANKS AND JEWELRY STORES WHEN WE NEED QUICK CASH - - WE KIDNAP FOR RANSOM, AND SO FORTH. YOU'LL BE USEFUL TO ME, MISS Z.
11-30
THAT'S YOUR CODE NAME. YOU'LL OBEY MY ORDERS WITHOUT QUESTION. IF YOU FAIL, OR DISOBEY, YOU'LL HANG. THAT IS ALL, MISS Z.
CONT'D.

WE'LL BE IN TOUCH WITH YOU, MISS Z. PLEASE DON'T BREATHE A WORD OF WHAT I'VE TOLD YOU.
IF YOU TALK~ SOMETHING WORSE THAN HANGING WILL HAPPEN TO YOU. NOW~ PLEASE WAIT OUTSIDE UNTIL I SEND AN ESCORT TO SEE YOU HOME.
DIANA LEAVES MISTER HOG-- HER HEAD IN A WHIRL--
MISS Z-- VAST CRIMINAL RING~ I'M PART OF IT--
12·2
NOTHING I CAN DO~TRAPPED· TRAPPED--JUST BECAUSE I TOOK A RIDE~ WITH THE COUNT~
TOMORROW: THE COUNT
ON THE DOUBLE, SLICK. MISTER HOG WANTS TO SEE YOU.
I'VE DECIDED NOT TO KEEP YOU IN SOLITARY, SLICK. YOU'LL BE MORE USEFUL AS A CONTACT FOR MISS PALMER, NOW KNOWN AS MISS Z.
TAKE HER HOME, BUT FIRST SHOW HER THE PEN AND EXPLAIN ITS PURPOSE TO HER. IT'LL DO YOU GOOD TO HAVE ANOTHER LOOK AT IT, YOURSELF.
12·3
REMEMBER, SLICK, YOU FAILED ONCE. ONE MORE MISTAKE, AND YOU GO TO THE PEN. THAT IS ALL.
TOMORROW: THE PEN.


I'M SUPPOSED TO TAKE YOU HOME. FIRST, I HAVE TO SHOW YOU THE PEN.
THIS WAY.
12-4
THIS IS MISTER HOG'S FAVORITE WAY OF~ PUNISHING PEOPLE WHO FAIL HIM OR ANNOY HIM. THE PEN.
WHY - THERE'S NOTHING HERE BUT~ HOGS.
HERE'S WHERE YOU'LL SPEND SOME TIME IF YOU AROUSE MR. HOG'S ANGER!
YOU MEAN HE PUTS PEOPLE IN THERE TO PUNISH THEM?
YOU AND I MAY BOTH FIND OURSELVES IN THERE IF WE'RE NOT CAREFUL~
12-5
TAKE ME OUT OF HERE ~~


YOU CALL YOURSELF A MAN, GETTING ME INTO A HORRIBLE WEB LIKE THIS - CRIMINAL RING-
I COULDN'T HELP IT, DIANA--
--I HAVE TO OBEY MISTER HOG. HE FRAMED ME, JUST LIKE YOU, DIANA. YOU'D BE SURPRISED AT THE PEOPLE WHO WORK FOR HIM - BIG SHOTS, SOME OF THEM.
WE'RE ALL POWERLESS -- YOU'LL JUST HAVE TO WAIT AT HOME UNTIL HE SENDS YOU ORDERS FOR YOUR FIRST JOB--
12-6
ISN'T THAT NICE? THEY'VE BEEN DRIVING ALL DAY. I KNEW DIANA WOULD ENJOY MEETING A FINE MAN LIKE THE COUNT.
HAVE A NICE DAY WITH THE COUNT, DEAR?
YES, MAMA.
YOU LOOK PALE, DIANA.
I'M - JUST TIRED, MAMA.
TIRED - AND TRAPPED - I'M NOW WORKING FOR MISTER HOG - I'M MISS Z - I'LL GO TO THE PEN IF I'M NOT A GOOD GIRL--
12-7
I CAN'T TELL ANYONE - IT'S LIKE A HORRIBLE NIGHT-MARE - BUT I WON'T WAKE UP - BECAUSE IT'S REAL--
CONT'D.

THE STORY, SO FAR: DIANA IS TALKED INTO PLAYING A "PRACTICAL JOKE" THAT ENDS TRAGICALLY - OR SO IT APPEARS TO HER--
THE "DEAD MAN" IS NOT DEAD AT ALL - BUT DIANA DOESN'T KNOW THAT - NOR DOES SHE KNOW IT'S ALL PART OF A CAREFUL PLAN-
- PUTTING HER IN THE POWER OF A VAST CRIMINAL RING HEADED BY A MYSTERIOUS MISTER HOG
YOU KILLED THAT MAN WITH YOUR OWN GUN.
OBEY MY ORDERS OR POLICE WILL HANG YOU
NO ESCAPE
HELPLESS
12-9
I DON'T KNOW WHAT MISTER HOG EXPECTS OF ME! I DIDN'T KILL THAT MAN BUT HOW COULD I PROVE IT?
"IF I GO TO THE POLICE, I'LL BE HANGED ON THE EVIDENCE. IF I REFUSE TO OBEY MISTER HOG, I'LL END UP IN HIS HORRID PEN!"
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED
MAYBE THEY'VE FORGOTTEN ABOUT ME - MAYBE IT'S A JOKE - OH?
DIANA, THE COUNT IS WAITING TO SEE YOU.
YOUR FIRST ASSIGNMENT - FROM MISTER HOG.
12-10


I AM TO PHONE FOR AN APPOINTMENT TO SEE THE TARNOFF EMERALDS.
HERE'S A PICTURE OF THEM..
"THE RICHEST EMERALD STRAND ON EARTH. MISTER HOG IS NO PIKER."
THEN, I'M TO ENTER THE STORE EXACTLY AT NOON AND SEE THE EMERALDS.
AT 12:04, I'M TO ASK THE CLERK TO SHOW THEM TO ME IN THE DAYLIGHT AT THE DOORWAY.
THAT'S ALL. MAYBE FIFTY OTHER PEOPLE WILL BE IN THIS, TOO. MISTER HOG'S PLANS RUN LIKE CLOCKWORK!
12-11
YOUR JOB IS SIMPLE-BUT YOU MUST BE PRECISE.
NO-I CAN'T DO IT-I WON'T..
LISTEN, LITTLE FOOL! YOU'RE WORKING FOR MISTER HOG NOW. YOU FOLLOW ORDERS EXACTLY-OR GO TO THE PEN!
YOU'RE HURTING ME-OH-IT CAN'T BE.. DEVIL!
12-12
YOU..
DIANA..

DARLING~ IT'S BEEN SO LONG~~
DIANA, DARLING~

I THINK YOU'D BETTER GO TO YOUR ROOM~~ AT ONCE ~ MISS Z.
YES~~

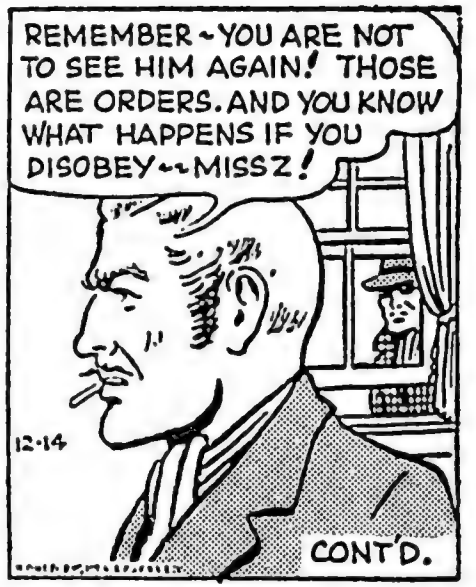
DIANA! I'VE COME HALFWAY AROUND THE WORLD TO SEE YOU!
I'M SORRY. I CAN'T TALK TO YOU NOW. GOOD-BYE~~

12-13

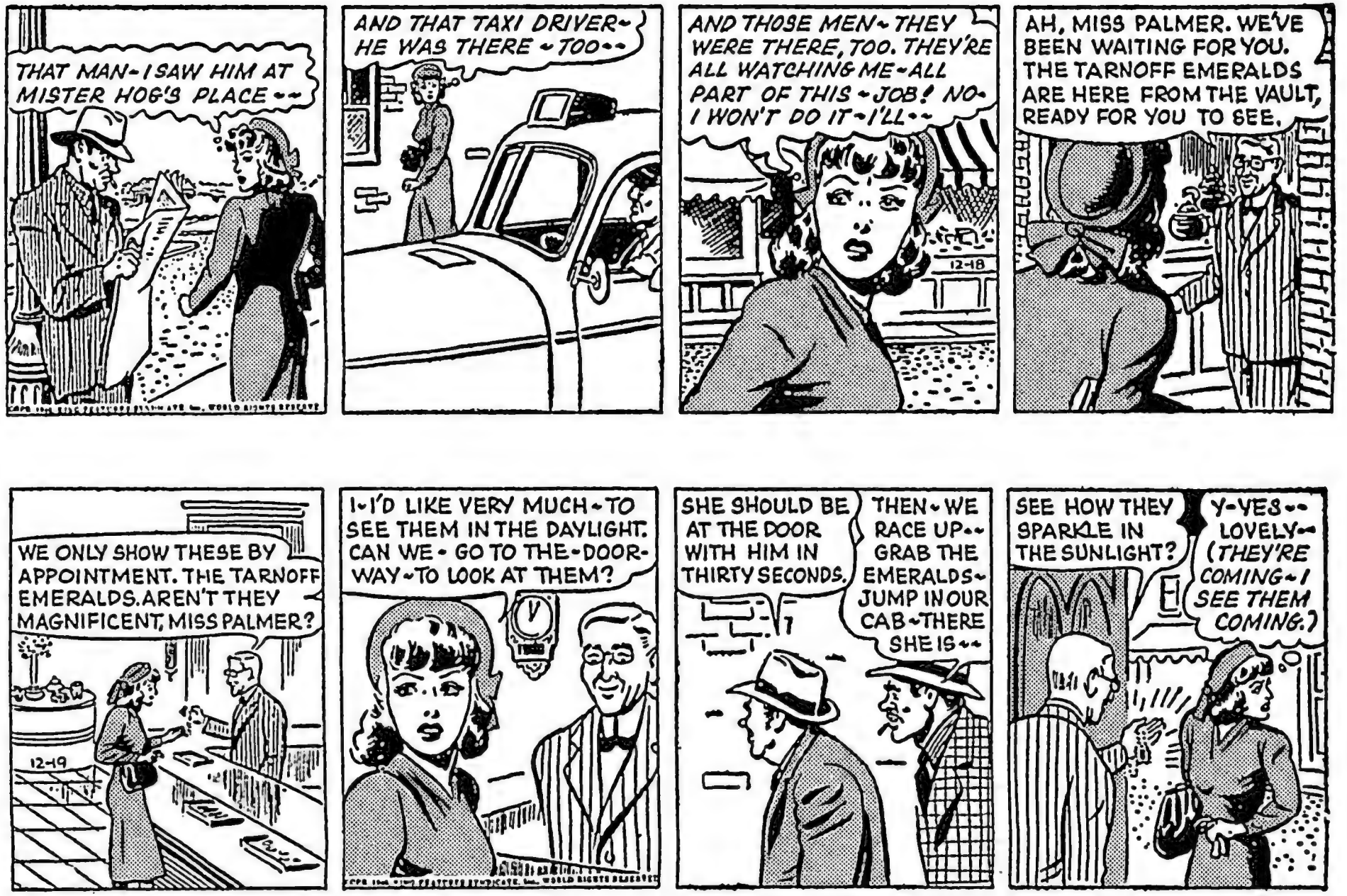
I BELIEVE DIANA MADE IT CLEAR THAT SHE DOESN'T WANT TO SEE YOU ANY MORE.
I MUST KNOW WHY.

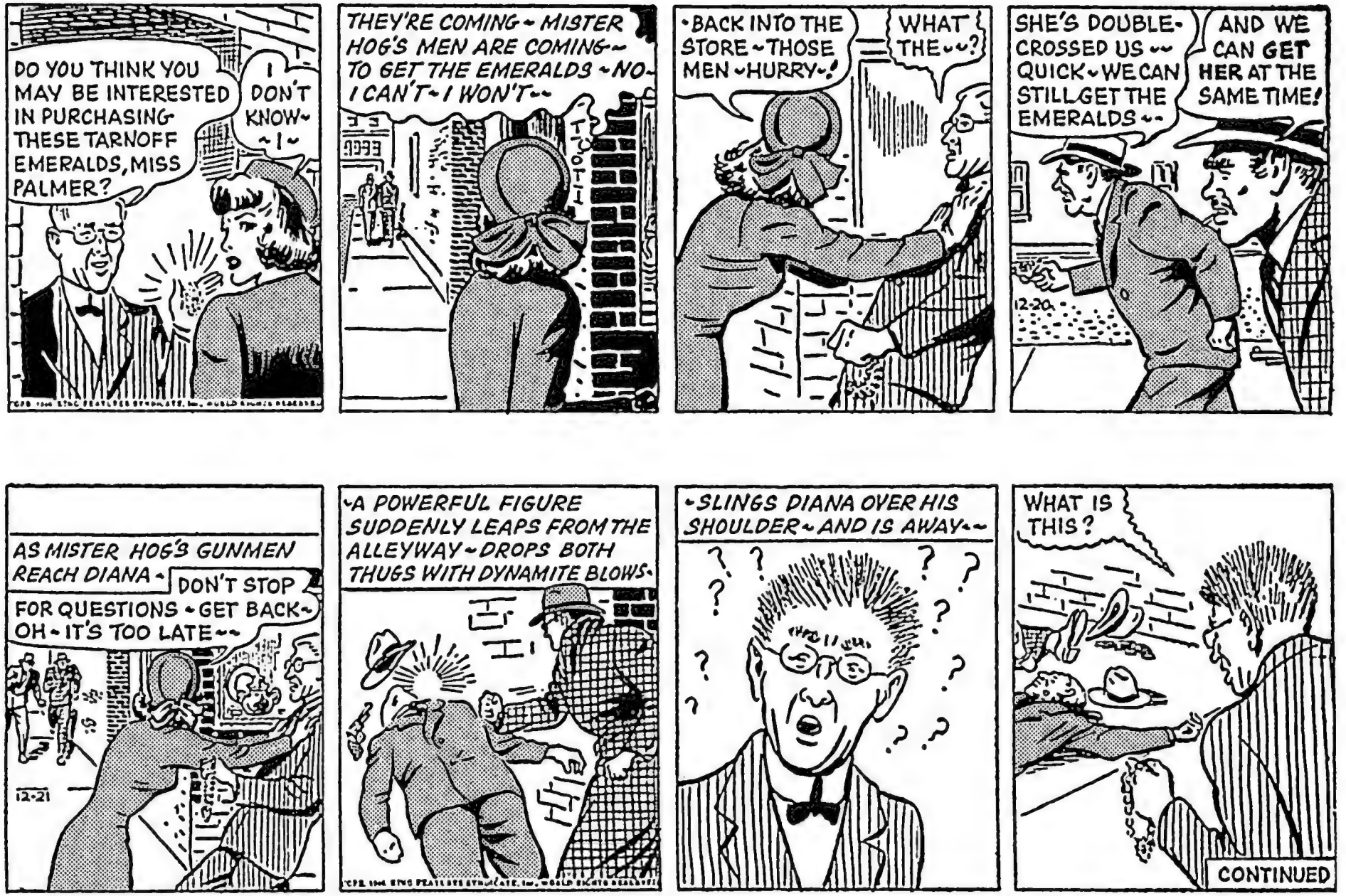
SHE'LL WRITE YOU A LETTER!

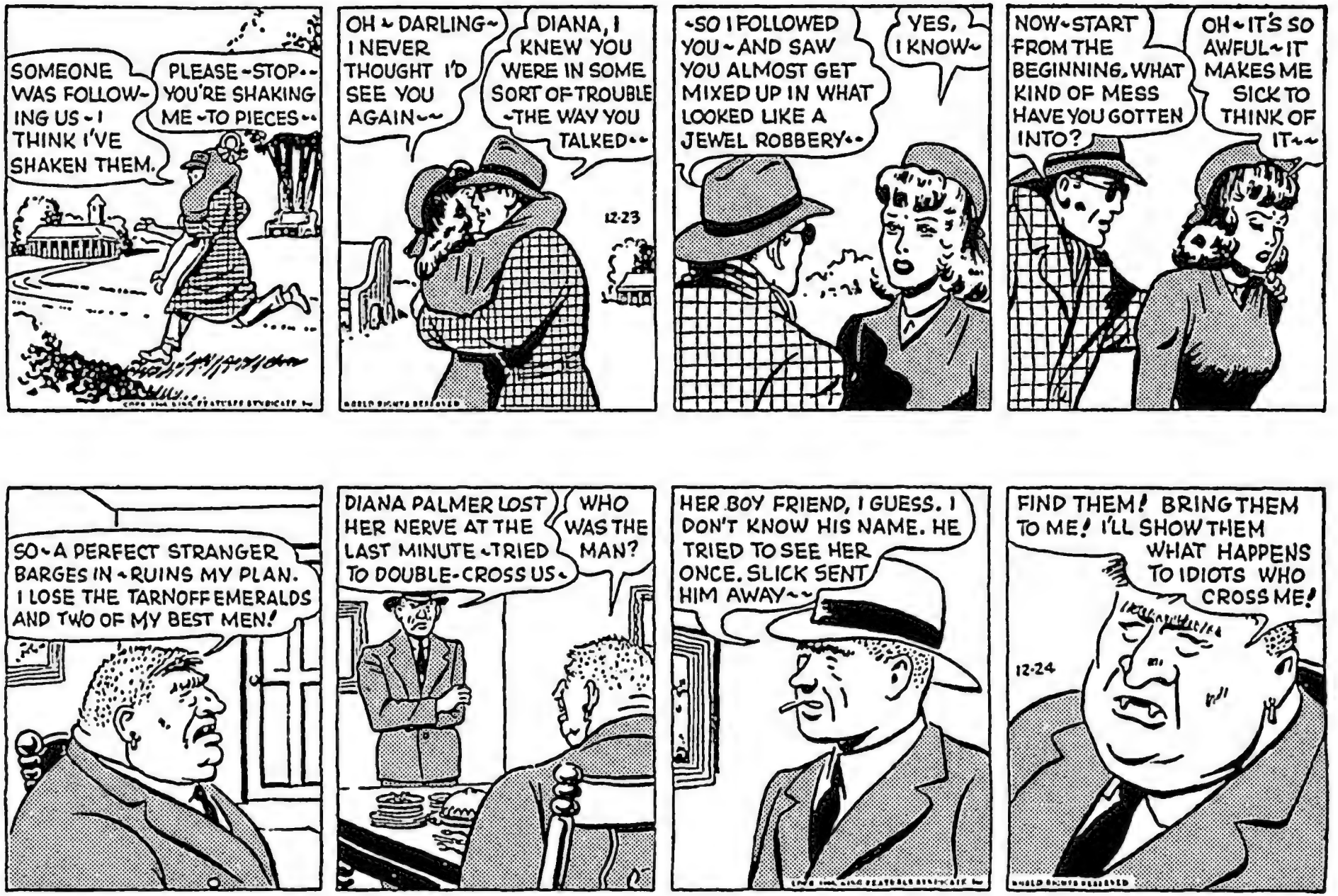
HE WAS JUST AN OLD FRIEND~
BOY FRIEND~ MORE LIKELY. MISTER HOG WOULDN'T APPROVE. YOUR TONGUE MIGHT WAGGLE~~


REMEMBER ~ YOU ARE NOT TO SEE HIM AGAIN! THOSE ARE ORDERS. AND YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENS IF YOU DISOBEY~~ MISS Z!
12-14
CONT'D.

DIANA ~~
NO~ YOU MUST GO AWAY~~
12-16
DIANA ~ARE YOU ILL? WHAT'S HAPPENED? THIS CAN'T BE YOU!
PLEASE GO AWAY! YOU MUSTN'T BE SEEN HERE~
PLEASE BELIEVE ME. I CAN'T TALK TO YOU AGAIN ~OR SEE YOU AGAIN ~ EVER! I CAN'T EXPLAIN ~BUT LEAVE AT ONCE!
I~SENT HIM AWAY~MY SWEETHEART~MY LOVE~I'LL NEVER SEE HIM AGAIN~~
TOMORROW: EMERALD JOB...
YES, MISS PALMER, WE'LL BE DELIGHTED TO SHOW YOU THE TARNOFF EMERALDS. ABOUT NOON? THANK YOU.
THEN ~ I'M TO ASK THE CLERK TO SHOW THEM TO ME IN THE DAYLIGHT~ AND BE IN THE DOORWAY WITH HIM AT EXACTLY 12:05~~
AM I LOSING MY MIND~~ TAKING PART IN A CRIME LIKE THIS? SOMEONE MAY BE KILLED~ WHAT IF I'M CAUGHT?~
12-17
I CAN'T GO THRU WITH IT~ IT'S IMPOSSIBLE ~ YET I MUST ~ THERE'S NO WAY OUT~
TOMORROW: THE WATCHERS


THAT MAN~I SAW HIM AT MISTER HOG'S PLACE~~
AND THAT TAXI DRIVER~ HE WAS THERE ~TOO~~
AND THOSE MEN~THEY WERE THERE, TOO. THEY'RE ALL WATCHING ME~ALL PART OF THIS ~JOB! NO~ I WON'T DO IT~I'LL~~
12-18
AH, MISS PALMER. WE'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU. THE TARNOFF EMERALDS ARE HERE FROM THE VAULT, READY FOR YOU TO SEE.
WE ONLY SHOW THESE BY APPOINTMENT. THE TARNOFF EMERALDS. AREN'T THEY MAGNIFICENT, MISS PALMER?
12-19
I~I'D LIKE VERY MUCH~TO SEE THEM IN THE DAYLIGHT. CAN WE~GO TO THE~DOOR-WAY~TO LOOK AT THEM?
SHE SHOULD BE AT THE DOOR WITH HIM IN THIRTY SECONDS.
THEN~WE RACE UP~~ GRAB THE EMERALDS~ JUMP IN OUR CAB~THERE SHE IS~~
SEE HOW THEY SPARKLE IN THE SUNLIGHT?
Y-YES~~ LOVELY~~ (THEY'RE COMING~I SEE THEM COMING.)


DO YOU THINK YOU MAY BE INTERESTED IN PURCHASING THESE TARNOFF EMERALDS, MISS PALMER?
I DON'T KNOW~ ~I~
THEY'RE COMING ~ MISTER HOG'S MEN ARE COMING~~ TO GET THE EMERALDS ~ NO~ I CAN'T ~ I WON'T~~
~BACK INTO THE STORE ~ THOSE MEN ~ HURRY~!
WHAT THE~~?
SHE'S DOUBLE-CROSSED US ~~ QUICK ~ WE CAN STILL GET THE EMERALDS ~~
AND WE CAN GET HER AT THE SAME TIME!
12-20
AS MISTER HOG'S GUNMEN REACH DIANA ~
DON'T STOP FOR QUESTIONS ~ GET BACK~ OH ~ IT'S TOO LATE~~
12-21
~A POWERFUL FIGURE SUDDENLY LEAPS FROM THE ALLEYWAY ~ DROPS BOTH THUGS WITH DYNAMITE BLOWS.
~SLINGS DIANA OVER HIS SHOULDER ~ AND IS AWAY~~
WHAT IS THIS?
CONTINUED


SOMEONE WAS FOLLOWING US - I THINK I'VE SHAKEN THEM.
PLEASE - STOP - - YOU'RE SHAKING ME - TO PIECES - -
OH - DARLING - I NEVER THOUGHT I'D SEE YOU AGAIN - -
DIANA, I KNEW YOU WERE IN SOME SORT OF TROUBLE - THE WAY YOU TALKED - -
12-23
- SO I FOLLOWED YOU - AND SAW YOU ALMOST GET MIXED UP IN WHAT LOOKED LIKE A JEWEL ROBBERY - -
YES, I KNOW -
NOW - START FROM THE BEGINNING. WHAT KIND OF MESS HAVE YOU GOTTEN INTO?
OH - IT'S SO AWFUL - IT MAKES ME SICK TO THINK OF IT - -
SO - A PERFECT STRANGER BARGES IN - RUINS MY PLAN. I LOSE THE TARNOFF EMERALDS AND TWO OF MY BEST MEN!
DIANA PALMER LOST HER NERVE AT THE LAST MINUTE - TRIED TO DOUBLE-CROSS US -
WHO WAS THE MAN?
HER BOY FRIEND, I GUESS. I DON'T KNOW HIS NAME. HE TRIED TO SEE HER ONCE. SLICK SENT HIM AWAY - -
FIND THEM! BRING THEM TO ME! I'LL SHOW THEM WHAT HAPPENS TO IDIOTS WHO CROSS ME!
12-24

SO THEY FRAMED YOU WITH THE "MURDER" OF THE POOR OLD GEM DEALER?
WHY DO YOU SAY "MURDER" LIKE THAT?
COPR 1946, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.

HE WAS MURDERED. I SAW HIM KILLED. I DUG HIS GRAVE~ AND SAW HIM BURIED!
HMM~~ TELL ME MORE ABOUT MISTER HOG.
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED.

HE'S A BIG, FAT, CRUEL MAN~~ AND HE'S GOT A HUGE CRIMINAL RING~OH, DARLING. I KNOW I DID WRONG TO AGREE TO DO ANYTHING FOR THEM~~

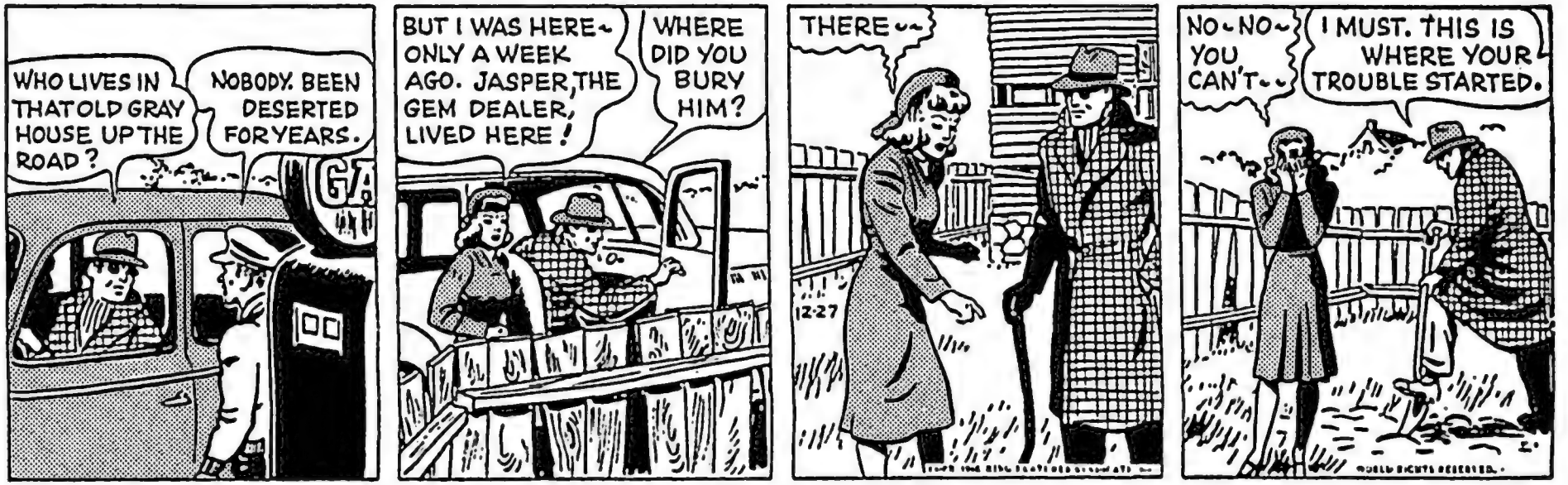
BUT I WAS SO SCARED~
NATURALLY, POOR DARLING. BUT WHEN THE CHIPS WERE DOWN, YOU WERE TRUE BLUE. I'LL HANDLE MISTER HOG FROM HERE ON!
11-25

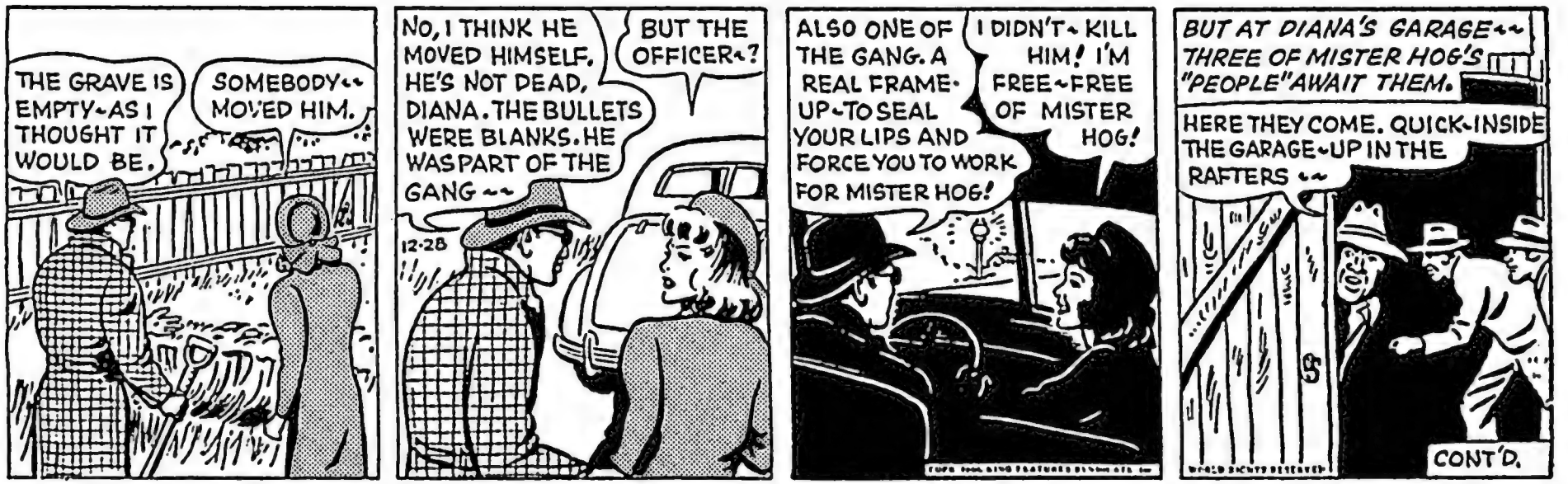
WHAT DO WE DO NOW? MISTER HOG STILL HAS ME~FRAMED.
FIRST~WE GET YOUR CAR.

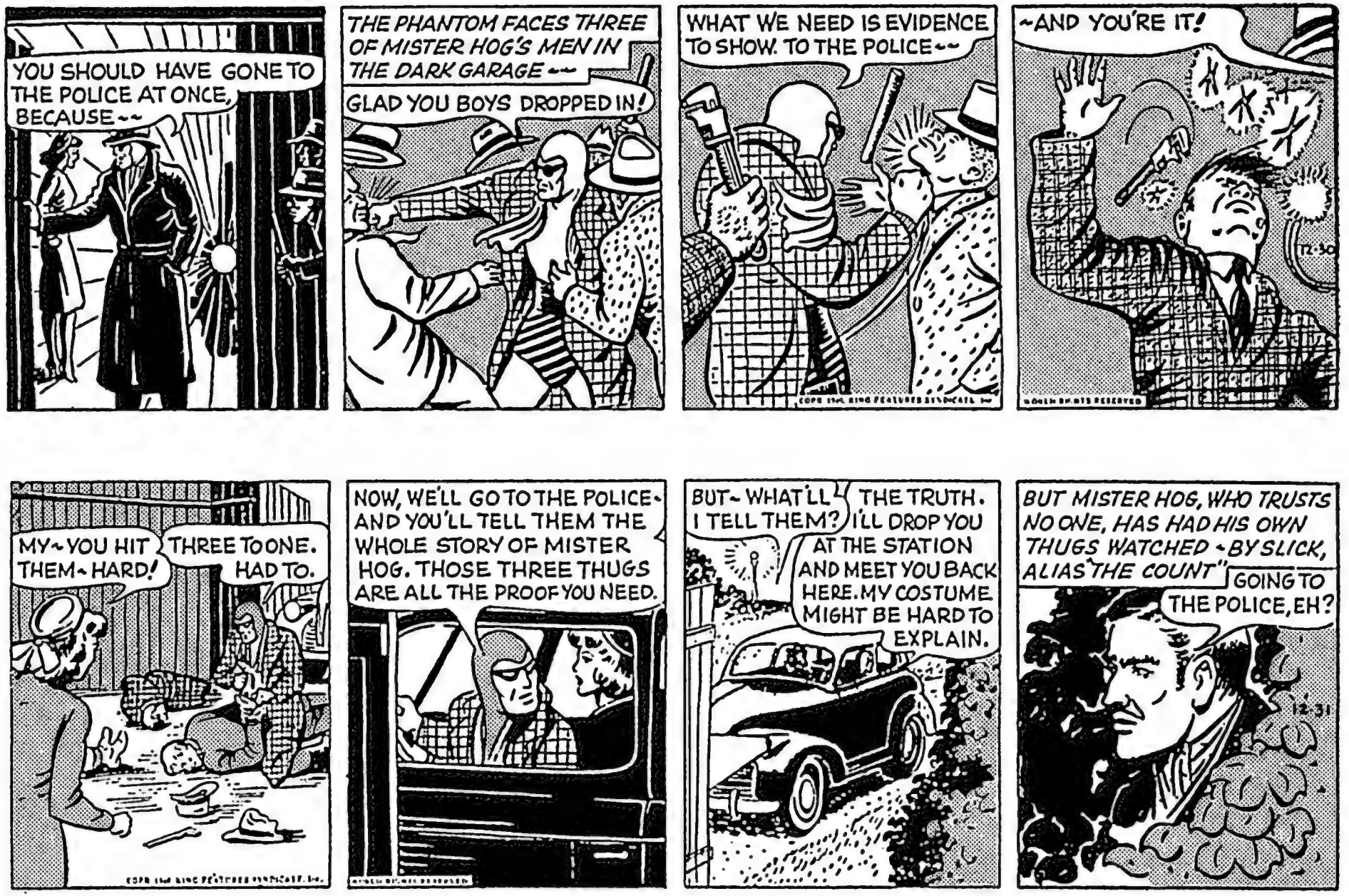
I WANT TO DRIVE TO THAT GEM DEALER'S HOUSE. THE ONE YOU "SHOT". REMEMBER WHERE IT IS?
YES~~ BUT~~I DON'T WANT TO GO THERE~
12-26

HE'S THERE~IN THAT GRAVE~ IT WAS ALL SO HORRIBLE~~ I CAN'T SEE IT AGAIN~~
COPR 1946, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.

SORRY, DIANA. WE HAVE TO FOLLOW THIS THRU. I WANT TO LOOK AT THAT GRAVE.
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED.


WHO LIVES IN THAT OLD GRAY HOUSE UP THE ROAD?
NOBODY. BEEN DESERTED FOR YEARS.
BUT I WAS HERE~ ONLY A WEEK AGO. JASPER, THE GEM DEALER, LIVED HERE!
WHERE DID YOU BURY HIM?
THERE~~
12-27
NO~NO~ YOU CAN'T~~
I MUST. THIS IS WHERE YOUR TROUBLE STARTED.

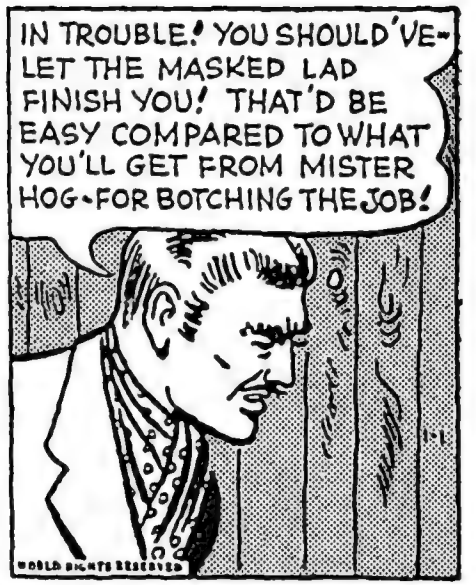

THE GRAVE IS EMPTY~AS I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE.
SOMEBODY~~ MOVED HIM.
NO, I THINK HE MOVED HIMSELF. HE'S NOT DEAD, DIANA. THE BULLETS WERE BLANKS. HE WAS PART OF THE GANG~~
BUT THE OFFICER~?
12-28
ALSO ONE OF THE GANG. A REAL FRAME-UP~TO SEAL YOUR LIPS AND FORCE YOU TO WORK FOR MISTER HOG!
I DIDN'T~ KILL HIM! I'M FREE~FREE OF MISTER HOG!
BUT AT DIANA'S GARAGE~~ THREE OF MISTER HOG'S "PEOPLE" AWAIT THEM.
HERE THEY COME. QUICK~INSIDE THE GARAGE~UP IN THE RAFTERS~~
CONT'D.


YOU SHOULD HAVE GONE TO THE POLICE AT ONCE, BECAUSE--
THE PHANTOM FACES THREE OF MISTER HOG'S MEN IN THE DARK GARAGE--
GLAD YOU BOYS DROPPED IN!
WHAT WE NEED IS EVIDENCE TO SHOW. TO THE POLICE--
--AND YOU'RE IT!
12-30
MY--YOU HIT THEM--HARD!
THREE TO ONE. HAD TO.
NOW, WE'LL GO TO THE POLICE--AND YOU'LL TELL THEM THE WHOLE STORY OF MISTER HOG. THOSE THREE THUGS ARE ALL THE PROOF YOU NEED.
BUT--WHAT'LL I TELL THEM?
THE TRUTH. I'LL DROP YOU AT THE STATION AND MEET YOU BACK HERE. MY COSTUME MIGHT BE HARD TO EXPLAIN.
BUT MISTER HOG, WHO TRUSTS NO ONE, HAS HAD HIS OWN THUGS WATCHED--BY SLICK, ALIAS "THE COUNT"
GOING TO THE POLICE, EH?
12-31

HMM~REALLY OUT~ALL OF THEM! THAT MASKED LAD MUST'VE HIT THEM WITH A SLEDGE HAMMER!

WONDER WHO HE IS! WELL, THAT'S MISTER HOG'S PROBLEM, NOT MINE! MY ONLY PROBLEM IS TO STAY OUT OF HIS WAY!

WAKE UP, KIDDIES, OR YOU'LL BE LATE FOR SCHOOL!
UH— WHERE AM I?


IN TROUBLE! YOU SHOULD'VE LET THE MASKED LAD FINISH YOU! THAT'D BE EASY COMPARED TO WHAT YOU'LL GET FROM MISTER HOG~FOR BOTCHING THE JOB!

MISS PALMER, I FIND YOUR STORY INCREDIBLE. A VAST CRIMINAL RING, A MASTER-MIND, A CASTLE HIDE-OUT~~ THAT ALL SOUNDS HARD TO SWALLOW!

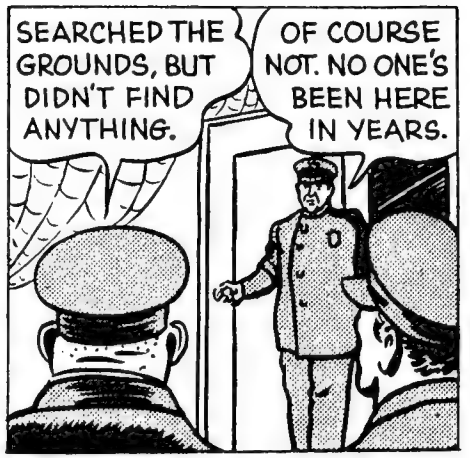
BUT IT'S ALL TRUE. THREE OF HIS MEN ARE TIED UP, IN MY GARAGE!
WELL, IT'S WORTH A LOOK. YOUR UNCLE'S AN OLD FRIEND OF MINE~~

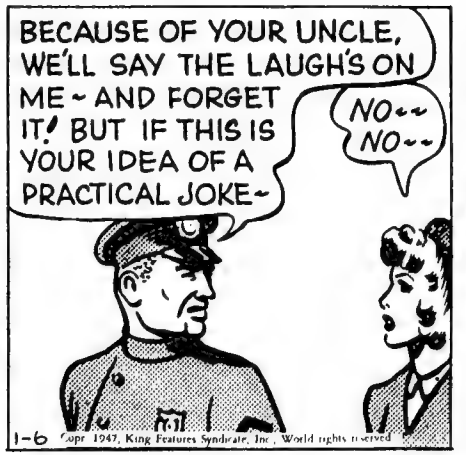
I KNOW IT SOUNDS CRAZY, BUT~~~
WE'LL HAVE A TALK WITH THE MEN YOU CAPTURED IN YOUR GARAGE.

EMPTY! BUT THEY WERE~~ HERE~~
HMM~~

-AND JUST HOW DID YOU CAPTURE THREE MEN- WHO YOU SAY WERE HERE?
I HAD A GUN! (I CAN'T TELL HIM ABOUT THE PHANTOM. THAT WOULD BE TOO CONFUSING--)
THEY ESCAPED-SOMEHOW! PLEASE BELIEVE ME. I CAN TAKE YOU TO MISTER HOG'S CASTLE! ALL THE GUNMEN ARE THERE- DOZENS OF THEM--
I DON'T BELIEVE A WORD OF THIS, MISS PALMER- BUT IT'S MY DUTY TO INVESTIGATE YOUR COMPLAINT- SO WE'LL GO!
THANK GOODNESS!
YES, SLICK? THAT PALMER GIRL BRINGING THE POLICE HERE? THANK YOU, SLICK. I'LL REMEMBER YOUR GOOD WORK.
1-3
PALMER GIRL BRINGING POLICE HERE. PUT PLAN 17 IN OPERATION AT ONCE. BLAST THAT GIRL!
THAT'S THE GATEHOUSE. TURN IN THERE, PLEASE!
HMM-LOOKS LIKE A DESERTED HOUSE, MISS PALMER.
THOSE WINDOWS- WEREN'T BOARDED UP--
COBWEBS! DUST! THIS HOUSE HASN'T BEEN USED IN YEARS!
BUT-- BUT--
1-4
CONT'D.

NOT A STICK OF FURNITURE ANYWHERE! DUST~COBWEBS~ THIS IS A DESERTED HOUSE!
BUT YESTERDAY IT WAS FILLED WITH PEOPLE AND FURNITURE ~AND~


SEARCHED THE GROUNDS, BUT DIDN'T FIND ANYTHING.
OF COURSE NOT. NO ONE'S BEEN HERE IN YEARS.


BECAUSE OF YOUR UNCLE, WE'LL SAY THE LAUGH'S ON ME ~ AND FORGET IT! BUT IF THIS IS YOUR IDEA OF A PRACTICAL JOKE~
NO~~ NO~~
1-6
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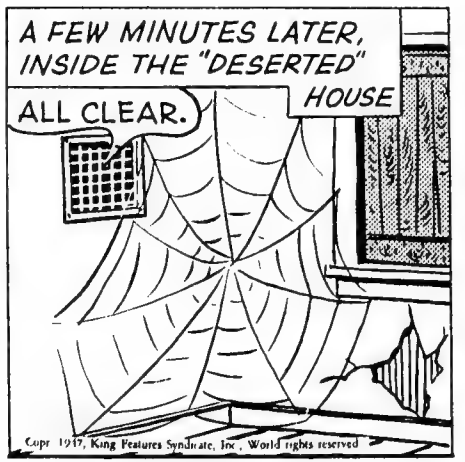
AFTER THIS, PLEASE DON'T TAKE UP MY TIME WITH YOUR NIGHTMARES! I'M A BUSY MAN!

IN ALL MY YEARS ON THE FORCE, I'VE NEVER BEEN ON SUCH A WILD-GOOSE CHASE! LET'S GO, JOE!

1-7


A FEW MINUTES LATER, INSIDE THE "DESERTED" HOUSE
ALL CLEAR.
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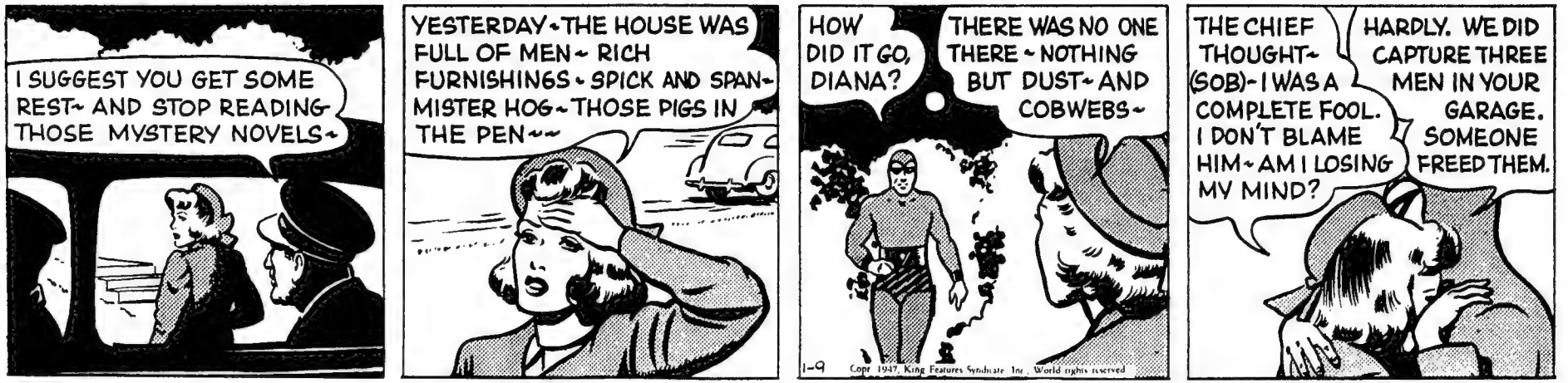
THAT'S THAT! PLAN 17~THE TWO-MINUTE TRANSFORMATION OF MY CASTLE INTO A DESERTED HOUSE~ WAS SUCCESSFUL~ NATURALLY.

THE PRESS OF A BUTTON~ AND THE "DESERTED" HOUSE BECOMES "UNDESERTED." BOARDED-UP SECTIONS SLIDE INTO PANELS~~
1-8 Copr 1947, King Features Syndicate Inc World rights reserved.
FURNISHINGS ARE PULLED OUT FROM THE DOUBLE WALLS~ WHERE THE MEN HAVE ALSO BEEN HIDING~
CLEAN UP THE DUST AND THOSE ARTIFICIAL COBWEBS~~
~AND BRING ME SOMETHING TO EAT! I'M STARVING!


I SUGGEST YOU GET SOME REST~ AND STOP READING THOSE MYSTERY NOVELS~
YESTERDAY~THE HOUSE WAS FULL OF MEN~ RICH FURNISHINGS~SPICK AND SPAN~ MISTER HOG~THOSE PIGS IN THE PEN~~
HOW DID IT GO, DIANA?
THERE WAS NO ONE THERE~NOTHING BUT DUST~AND COBWEBS~
1-9 Copr 1947, King Features Syndicate Inc World rights reserved
THE CHIEF THOUGHT~ (SOB)~I WAS A COMPLETE FOOL. I DON'T BLAME HIM~AM I LOSING MY MIND?
HARDLY. WE DID CAPTURE THREE MEN IN YOUR GARAGE. SOMEONE FREED THEM.

MISTER HOG WAS JUST A STEP AHEAD OF US, DIANA. HE'S CLEVER~AND HE WORKS FAST.

GO UPSTAIRS AND GET SOME SLEEP. I'M GOING TO VISIT MISTER HOG!
OH, DARLING, BE CAREFUL.

IT WAS LIKE A NIGHTMARE~~ FINDING THAT HOUSE SO EMPTY~AND DESERTED. OH~ I'M EXHAUSTED~ I NEED SLEEP~~
1-10
Copr. 1947, King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved.

MISTER HOG WANTS TO SEE YOU, MISS Z!
SLICK~~!

I'VE BEEN WATCHING THIS LITTLE COMEDY FROM THE SIDELINES. DID YOU THINK YOU COULD OUTSMART MISTER HOG?
1-11

HE ALSO KNOWS THAT YOUR ATHLETIC BOY FRIEND IS COMING TO SEE HIM~AND WILL BE **READY** FOR HIM!
King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved.

DON'T BOTHER TO WAKE YOUR MAMA AND SAY GOOD-BYE. YOU WON'T SEE HER AGAIN.

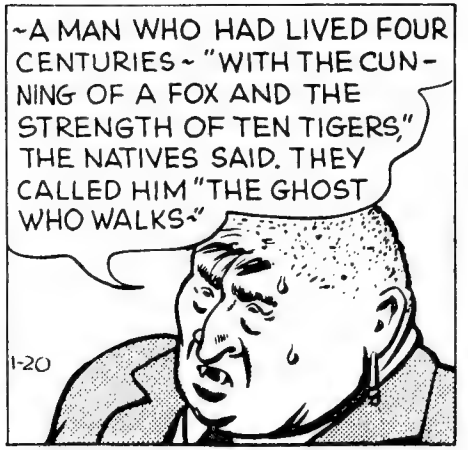
THERE'S THE GATEHOUSE AHEAD~THE ENTRANCE TO MISTER HOG'S!

NEAR THE HIDE-OUT OF MISTER HOG.
COPR 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.
TELL MISTER HOG THE INFORMATION IS CORRECT. THE MASKED MAN AND DOG ARE AT THE WALL.
1-13
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED
THE MASKED MAN AND DOG CAME OVER THE WALL ONTO THE GROUNDS, MISTER. THE OUTER SENTRIES WILL PICK THEM UP.
DOES ANYONE KNOW WHO THE MASKED MAN IS?
NO, MISTER.
HAVE HIM BROUGHT TO ME AS SOON AS HE'S CAUGHT. BUT, FIRST, BRING ME THE THREE MEN WHO WERE SENT TO GET HIM~AND FAILED.
THIS IS THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN TALK, MISTER. THE OTHER TWO ARE STILL "OUT" ~FROM THE BEATING THE MASKED MAN GAVE THEM IN THE GARAGE.
1-14
COPR. 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.
DON'T KILL US, MISTER! HONEST, WE FOLLOWED YOUR ORDERS. BUT WE DIDN'T HAVE A CHANCE WITH THAT MASKED GUY. HE WAS ~ SUPER HUMAN~~
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED

THREE AGAINST ONE. YOU HAD THE ADVANTAGE OF SURPRISE. STILL, HE BEAT YOU TO A PULP~MY TOUGHEST BOYS!
1-15
COPR 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.
WE DID OUR BEST, MISTER, BUT~~
STOP SNIVELING! YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE A KILLER, NOT AN INFANT! WHAT'S THAT ON YOUR JAW?
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED.
DON'T KNOW, MISTER. THE OTHER FELLAS GOT IT, TOO. LOOKS LIKE A SKULL MARK~WHERE HE HIT ME~~
WHERE IS THE MASKED MAN? WHY HAVEN'T THE SENTRIES BROUGHT HIM HERE?
HE SEEMS~~ TO HAVE DISAPPEARED.
SEARCH EVERY INCH OF THE GROUNDS! PUT EVERY MAN ON THE JOB! FIND THAT MASKED MAN!
COPR. 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.
NEVER SAW MISTER HOG SO EXCITED BEFORE. NOTHING EVER FAZES HIM. COLD AS ICE. ~UNTIL HE SAW THAT SKULL MARK~WONDER WHAT IT IS?
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED.
I'M NOT HUNGRY! PUT THAT TRAY DOWN! GET A RIFLE AND HELP THE OTHERS FIND THE MASKED MAN!
MISTER HOG MUST BE WORRIED! NEVER SAW HIM TURN DOWN FOOD BEFORE
1-16

MISTER HOG'S GUNMEN SEARCH THE ESTATE FOR THE MYSTERIOUS MASKED MAN~
THE WOODS ARE QUIET, SAVE FOR THE SOUND OF INSECTS AND THE SEARCHERS' FOOTSTEPS ~ THEN A SHARP CRACK ~
1-17
~~A CHOKED-OFF CRY A FEW MOMENTS LATER IN ANOTHER PART OF THE DARK WOODS ~~
COPR. 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.
WELL? HAVEN'T THEY GOT HIM YET, TRIG?
WE'RE TRYIN', MISTER. BUT THOSE WOODS ARE AWFULLY DARK~~
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED
JOE ~~THIS IS MIKE WHERE ARE YOU?
HEY~ JACK~ SEE ANYTHING? JACK~ THIS IS BILL. CAN YOU HEAR ME?
COPR. 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.
THE BOYS ARE GETTIN' A LITTLE LEERY, MISTER. THEM THAT GOES IN~ DON'T COME OUT~ IT'S SO DARK OUT THERE ~ GETS ON YOUR NERVES~!
1-18
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED
THE BOYS ARE ASKIN'~ WHO IS THIS MASKED GUY IN THE WOODS?
THE PHANTOM!

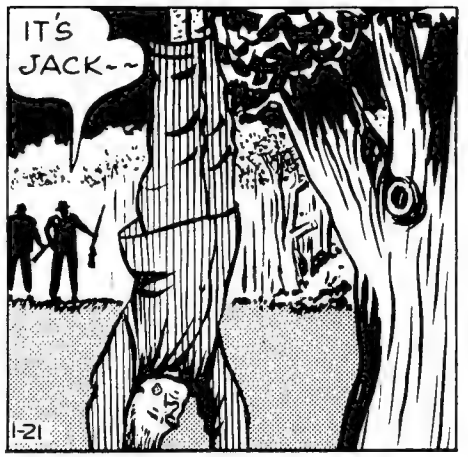
PHANTOM? WHO'S THAT?
IN MY EARLIER DAYS~IN THE ORIENT~ I HEARD STORIES OF A MAN WHO COULD NOT DIE~~


~A MAN WHO HAD LIVED FOUR CENTURIES~ "WITH THE CUNNING OF A FOX AND THE STRENGTH OF TEN TIGERS," THE NATIVES SAID. THEY CALLED HIM "THE GHOST WHO WALKS~"
1-20

HIS MARK WAS THE SIGN OF THE SKULL.
YOU DON'T BELIEVE THAT STUFF, DO YOU, MISTER? I CAN'T TELL THE BOYS THEY'RE CHASIN' A SPOOK!
COPR. 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.

TELL THEM NOTHING! I WANT THAT MASKED MAN BROUGHT TO ME~PREFERABLY DEAD! CONTINUE THE SEARCH!
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED

LOOK~
IT'S~~ MIKE~~


IT'S JACK~~
1-21

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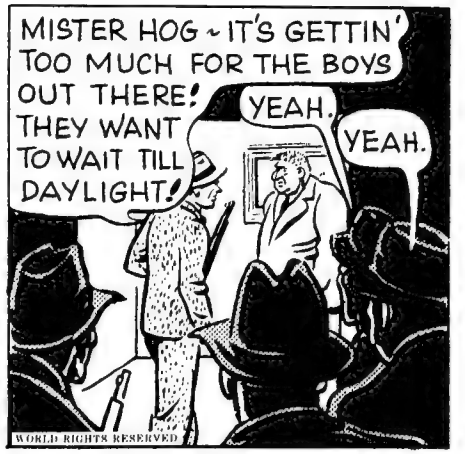

MISTER HOG~IT'S GETTIN' TOO MUCH FOR THE BOYS OUT THERE! THEY WANT TO WAIT TILL DAYLIGHT!
YEAH.
YEAH.
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED

WE FOUND MIKE AND JACK AND A HALF-DOZEN OTHER BOYS IN THOSE WOODS ~ ALL KNOCKED UNCONSCIOUS ~ ALL WITH THOSE SKULL MARKS ~

SOMETHIN'S OUT THERE
POPPIN' US OFF ONE BY ONE ~~
CAN'T SEE NOTHIN'~ HEAR NOTHIN'~~
COPR. 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.

FIFTY OF THE TOUGHEST YEGGS IN THE COUNTRY ~ SHAKING LIKE INFANTS ~ KNOCKING YOUR KNEES TOGETHER ~ AFRAID OF ONE MAN ~~
1-22
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED.

YOU'LL GO IN THOSE WOODS AND GET HIM ~ OR ~~
EASY, MISTER. THE BOYS ALWAYS FOLLOWED YOUR ORDERS. BUT THIS IS DIFFERENT. YOU BETTER LET IT WAIT TILL DAYLIGHT!

OKAY ~ YOU'RE ALL YELLOW! SURROUND THE HOUSE ~ LET NOTHING IN! THE SEARCH FOR THE MASKED MAN IS POST ~ PONED UNTIL DAWN!

THOSE MEN HAVE NEVER BEEN AFRAID OF ANYTHING ~~ THEY'D DIE BEFORE THEY'D DISOBEY ME ~ YET ONE MAN DISRUPTS MY ENTIRE ORGANIZATION ~

THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT THIS PHANTOM ~ IF HE IS THE PHANTOM ~ THAT FREEZES YOUR BLOOD ~ THAT MAKES COWARDS OUT OF STRONG MEN ~ I CAN FEEL IT MYSELF ~~
1-23
COPR. 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.

"HE'S OUT THERE NOW ~~ WATCHING US ~ DARING US TO COME ~ AND WE'RE AFRAID ~ AFRAID"
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED

NO NEED TO WORRY. THE BOYS ARE ALL AROUND THE HOUSE.
I'VE LOST MY APPETITE~~

SLICK'S AT THE GATE! HE'S BROUGHT DIANA PALMER WITH HIM! THE MASKED MAN'S GIRL FRIEND!
1-24
COPR. 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.,

NOW WE'RE GETTING SOME-WHERE! WE'LL GET HIM OUT OF THE WOODS ~ WITH HER AS DECOY!
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED.

AH, MISS Z. IT SEEMS YOU DOUBLE-CROSSED ME! YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENS TO PEOPLE WHO DO THAT? REMEMBER THE PIG PEN?

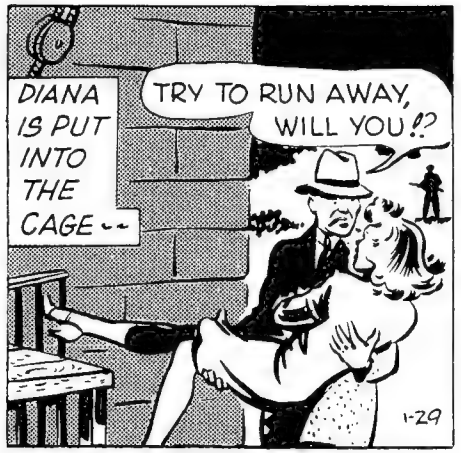
TELL ME ONE THING, MISS Z. THIS BOY FRIEND OF YOURS ~~ IS HE REALLY THE PHANTOM?

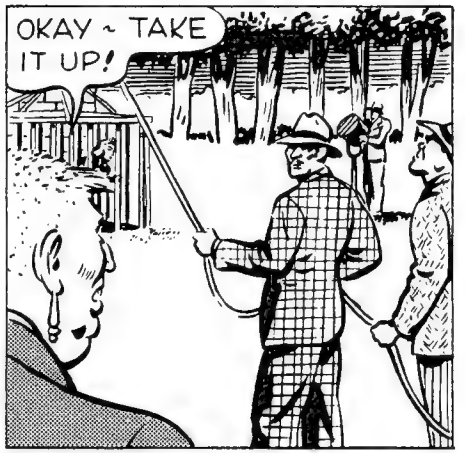
AH, NOT TALKING, EH? WE'RE HAVING A BIT OF DIFFICULTY FINDING YOUR FRIEND IN THE WOODS. WE'D LIKE A CHAT WITH HIM.
1-25

STAND HERE AND CALL HIM. ASK HIM TO COME HERE.
NO!
COPR. 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.

CALL HIM!
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED

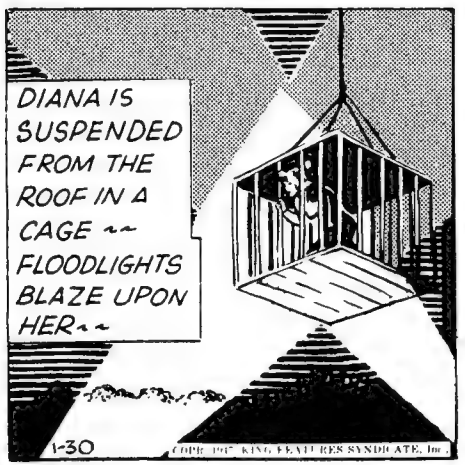
DO AS I SAY! CALL THE PHANTOM! ASK HIM TO COME HERE!
NO!
STUBBORN LITTLE--! I'LL MAKE YOU YELL!
WAIT, TRIG. I'VE AN IDEA THAT IF HE KNOWS SHE'S HERE, HE'LL COME. BRING THAT CAGE UP FROM THE CELLAR. PUT IT ON THE FRONT STAIRS.
1-27
WHAT IS MISTER HOG UP TO?
FIX THE PULLEY AND TACKLE ON THAT BEAM - AND ARRANGE THE FLOODLIGHTS.
1-28
OKAY, MISTER. ALL SET.
GOOD. BRING THE GIRL HERE.
AND NOW, MISS Z, IF YOU WILL ENTER--

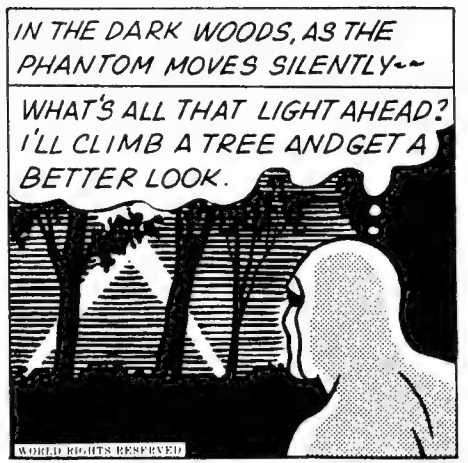

DIANA IS PUT INTO THE CAGE ~~
TRY TO RUN AWAY, WILL YOU!?
1-29


OKAY ~ TAKE IT UP!

WHAT ARE THEY~~ DOING~~?

THAT'LL BRING THE PHANTOM OUT OF THE WOODS!


DIANA IS SUSPENDED FROM THE ROOF IN A CAGE ~~ FLOODLIGHTS BLAZE UPON HER~~
1-30

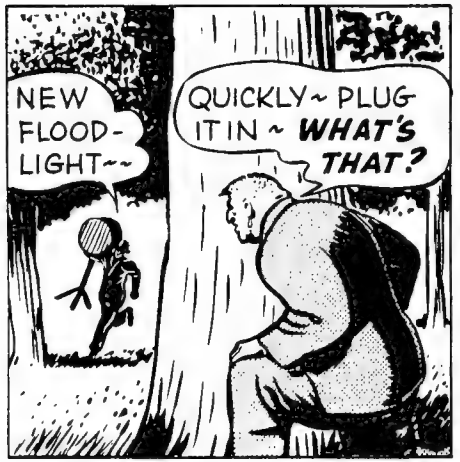

IN THE DARK WOODS, AS THE PHANTOM MOVES SILENTLY~~
WHAT'S ALL THAT LIGHT AHEAD? I'LL CLIMB A TREE AND GET A BETTER LOOK.

DIANA ~ IN THAT CAGE! I LEFT HER AT HOME! HOW DID SHE GET HERE?

HAVE THE MEN TAKE COVER IN THE BUSHES ~ READY TO SHOOT. AS SOON AS HE SHOWS HIMSELF!

DIANA IN A CAGE... MISTER HOG'S ATTEMPT TO DECOY THE PHANTOM.
1-31
COPR. 1937, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.
OKAY~ TURN OFF THE LIGHTS. BE READY TO SNAP THEM ON THE MINUTE I SIGNAL YOU.
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED
THE PHANTOM MUSTN'T COME ~ HE'LL KNOW THIS IS A TRAP FOR HIM ~ BUT I'M AFRAID ~ HE'LL COME ~ ANY-HOW!
DIANA IS RIGHT. SLOWLY, QUIETLY, IN THE UPPER LEVELS OF THE TREES, HE MOVES TOWARDS THE HOUSE!
QUIETLY, THE PHANTOM MOVES TO THE REAR OF THE HOUSE ~ THEN JUMPS ~~
AND LANDS ON THE ROOF ~~ AS SOFTLY AS A CAT ~~
MISTER HOG'S MEN WAIT IN THE DARKNESS ~ ON EDGE ~ TRIGGER FINGERS NERVOUS ~~
2-1
SUDDENLY ~ THE PHANTOM DISLODGES A LOOSE SHINGLE! ITS CLATTER BREAKS THE SI-LENCE LIKE A CANNON ROAR!
OH, OH!

HE'S UP THERE! LIGHTS!
COPR 1947 KING FEATURES SYNDICATE Inc
NO~NO~~
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED
SHOOT~~ SHOOT!
2-3
BEFORE MISTER HOG'S GUN-MEN CAN SHOOT, THE PHANTOM BLAZES AWAY AT THE LIGHTS.
HE'S SHOOTING THEM~ OUT OF A MACHINE GUN~! KNOCKING OUT OUR LIGHTS!
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED
KEEP SHOOTING UNTIL WE CAN SET UP NEW LIGHTS!
HE WORKS FAST IN THE DARKNESS ~SHOOTING OFF THE LOCK OF THE CAGE ~AS BULLETS MISS HIM BY INCHES~~
2-4


NEW FLOOD-LIGHT~~
QUICKLY~ PLUG IT IN ~ WHAT'S THAT?

THE CAGE CRASHES TO THE GROUND~~
2-5
COPR. 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.

GET ME UP! HURRY!
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED

EMPTY! LOOK~ ON THE TOP!
SIGN OF THE SKULL!

THEY MUST STILL BE ON THE ROOF~SURROUND THE HOUSE~~

MEANWHILE, AS DIANA AND THE PHANTOM WORK THEIR WAY DOWN THE REAR SLOPE OF THE ROOF~~
EASY DOES IT. WE CAN MAKE THAT BRANCH FROM THE EDGE~

DIANA SUDDENLY SLIPS~~
OOOH~~~
2-6
COPR. 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE Inc.

HE DIVES AFTER HER~~ CATCHING HER AT THE EDGE~
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED

DIANA SLIPS ~ THE PHANTOM CATCHES HER AT THE ROOF'S EDGE~
EASY ~~ I'VE GOT YOU~~

THERE THEY ARE!
COPR 1947 KING FEATURES SYNDICATE Inc.

OH ~ DARLING ~ I SLIPPED ~ I WAS SO CLUMSY ~~
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED

WE'VE GOT YOU! TOSS DOWN YOUR GUNS ~ OR WE'LL PICK YOU OFF LIKE CLAY PIGEONS!
2-7

HERE ARE MY GUNS ~ NOTHING ELSE TO DO~~

SEND MEN TO THE ROOF TO GET THEM!

OH, DARLING ~ IT WAS ALL MY FAULT ~ IF I HADN'T BEEN SO CLUMSY ~ AND SLIPPED ~ WE'D HAVE GOTTEN AWAY~~
2-8

DID WE CATCH HIM?
YEAH, WE DID.
COPR. 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.
SO THIS IS THE PHANTOM! HMM~ YOU LOOK FAIRLY HUMAN. TAKE OFF THAT MASK.
2-10
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED
HE'S BASHFUL! I'LL DO IT FOR HIM.
AS THE GUNMAN TRIES TO REMOVE THE PHANTOM'S MASK~~
YOU'LL HAVE TO SHOOT ME, FIRST!
THAT'LL BE A PLEASURE!
NO~ THAT CAN WAIT! YOU INTEREST ME, PHANTOM. ARE YOU REALLY UNABLE TO DIE?
2-11
COPR. 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.
HMM~ DON'T TALK MUCH, DO YOU? WELL, WE'LL HAVE PLENTY OF TIME TO FIND OUT!
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED

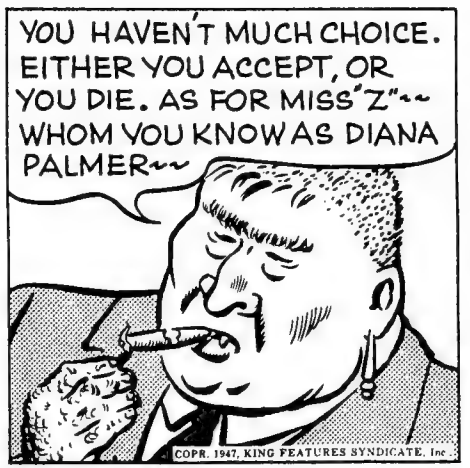
AS YOU CAN SEE, I DO NOT GET AROUND MUCH. I USE MY BRAINS, AND LET MORE ACTIVE MEN DO THE FOOT-WORK.
COPR 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc

YOU ARE A MAN OF ACTION. ~A MAN WHO TERRORIZED MY ENTIRE ORGANIZATION OF KILLERS FOR HOURS~~ YOU INTEREST ME!
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED

YOU ARE A DANGEROUS PROBLEM THAT I MUST SOLVE. EITHER I MUST KILL YOU~OR YOU MUST JOIN ME!
Z-12

JOIN YOU?
YES, AS SECOND IN COMMAND. YOUR POWER AND DARING~~ AND MY BRAINS! WHAT A COMBINATION!

I OFFER YOU A GREAT DEAL AS MY PARTNER. MY ORGANIZATION TAKES IN MILLIONS EACH YEAR~ AND NO TAXES TO PAY~~

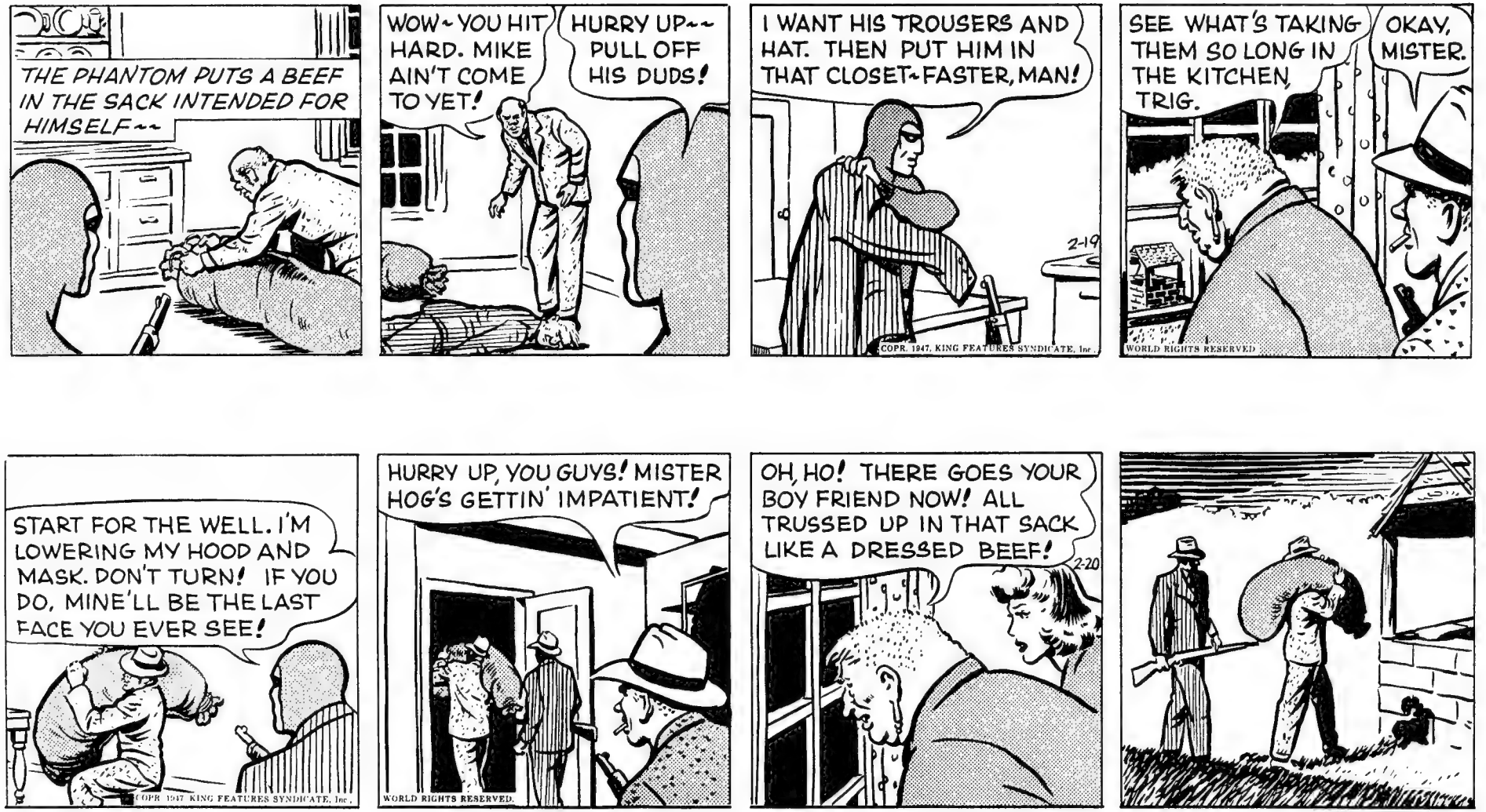

YOU HAVEN'T MUCH CHOICE. EITHER YOU ACCEPT, OR YOU DIE. AS FOR MISS "Z"~~ WHOM YOU KNOW AS DIANA PALMER~~
COPR. 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.

~SHE HAS BETRAYED US, AND IS NO LONGER USEFUL. THEREFORE, SHE MUST DIE. WELL, PHANTOM, WHAT IS YOUR ANSWER?
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED

OPFF
MISTER HOG, I CAN THINK OF A BETTER NAME FOR YOU. IT'S ~~ MISTER SKUNK!
Z-13

NO MAN'S EVER HIT ME~ AND LIVED TO BRAG ABOUT IT!
TIE HIM IN A SACK! PUT SOME BULLETS IN HIM, AND TOSS HIM IN THE WELL!
Z-14
WE'LL SEE IF YOU'RE THE "GHOST WHO WALKS ~ THE MAN WHO CANNOT DIE!"
COPR. 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.
SUCH NERVE AND ENERGY. I COULD HAVE USED HIM~~ WHAT A PITY!
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED
YOUR BOY FRIEND WILL BE TIED IN A WEIGHTED SACK, MISS Z~ THEN EXECUTED BY GUNFIRE~ AFTER WHICH~~
"~~AFTER WHICH HE'LL BE DROPPED DOWN THAT HUNDRED-FOOT WELL"
Z-15
IF HE SURVIVES ALL THAT, I'M WILLING TO BELIEVE HE'S THE "GHOST WHO WALKS!"
YOU CRUEL~ INHUMAN~
COPR. 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.
YOU HEARD MISTER HOG'S ORDERS. SO, STAND STILL AND DON'T GIVE US NO TROUBLE.
GLAD TO OBLIGE.
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED

A SIDE OF BEEF CAME IN THIS SACK. IT OUGHTA FIT YOU!
"WHEN THE PHANTOM MOVES, HE SHAMES THE LIGHTNING." ~~OLD JUNGLE SAYING.
I WON'T WAIT TO FIND OUT!
HE DROPS THE GUNMAN WITH A HARD BLOW~THEN GRASPS THE OTHER THUG WITH IRON HANDS~
UUGGL
2-17
COPR 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.
WHAT'S THE PHANTOM UP TO?
NOW~WE'RE GOING TO WORK FAST~BEFORE SOME OF YOUR OTHER PALS WANDER IN HERE.
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED.
WHAT YOU GONNA DO?
NO QUESTIONS~GET ONE OF THOSE BEEFS.
PUT IT IN THE SACK~THE ONE THAT YOU TRIED TO PUT ME IN.
COPR 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE UP TO, BUT YOU CAN'T WIN. THERE'S FIFTY ARMED GUYS AROUND THIS HOUSE.
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED.
I DON'T ENJOY KILLING, MISS "Z." WHEN PEOPLE INTERFERE IN MY AFFAIRS, THEY ARE ELIMINATED! STRICTLY BUSINESS~NOTHING PERSONAL.
2-18


THE PHANTOM PUTS A BEEF IN THE SACK INTENDED FOR HIMSELF~~
WOW~YOU HIT HARD. MIKE AIN'T COME TO YET!
HURRY UP~~ PULL OFF HIS DUDS!
I WANT HIS TROUSERS AND HAT. THEN PUT HIM IN THAT CLOSET~FASTER, MAN!
2-19
COPR. 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.
SEE WHAT'S TAKING THEM SO LONG IN THE KITCHEN, TRIG.
OKAY, MISTER.
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED
START FOR THE WELL. I'M LOWERING MY HOOD AND MASK. DON'T TURN! IF YOU DO, MINE'LL BE THE LAST FACE YOU EVER SEE!
COPR. 1947 KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.
HURRY UP, YOU GUYS! MISTER HOG'S GETTIN' IMPATIENT!
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED.
OH, HO! THERE GOES YOUR BOY FRIEND NOW! ALL TRUSSED UP IN THAT SACK LIKE A DRESSED BEEF!
2-20

SET THE SACK ON THE WELL~ AND REMEMBER, NOT A PEEP OUT OF YOU~~
~~AND DON'T TURN TO LOOK AT ME~ IF YOU VALUE YOUR LIFE!
YOUR BOY FRIEND'S IN THAT SACK. NOW WATCH CLOSELY, MISS "Z"! AHHH~~
2-21
COPR 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE Inc
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED
WATCHED BY MISTER HOG'S ARMED THUGS, THE PHANTOM CARRIES OUT HIS DARING PLAN~~
PUSH IT IN.
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED
THUS ENDS THE PHANTOM, NEATLY AND EFFICIENTLY, LIKE ALL OF MY PLANS!
2-22

NOW WALK TO THE CELLAR. IF ANYONE TALKS TO YOU, DON'T STOP~DON'T TALK~ JUST WALK!
2-24
GOOD WORK, BOYS!~~I WANT TO LOOK INTO THE WELL, MYSELF, TRIG~TO MAKE SURE THE PHANTOM WENT DOWN!
COPR. 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.
SUNK LIKE A ROCK. YOUR PHANTOM WAS ONLY HUMAN, AFTER ALL. AH, ME~ ANOTHER ILLUSION SPOILED.
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED
KEEP GOING~ INTO THE CELLAR.
THEN, IN THE PITCH-BLACK CELLAR OF MISTER HOG~~
YOU CAN'T GET AWAY WITH THIS~UGH~~
COPR. 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.
WONDER IF I CAN? WELL, SO FAR, SO GOOD. THEY THINK I'M AT THE BOTTOM OF THE WELL!
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED
NOW YOUR TURN. YOU SHALL FOLLOW YOUR BOY FRIEND~INTO THE WELL. A PITY~YOU'RE SO LOVELY.
2-25

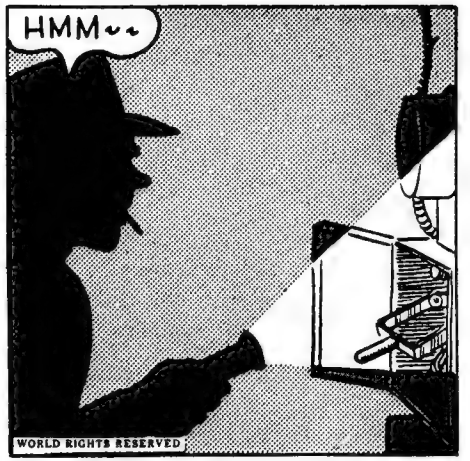
BEFORE DYING, YOU SHALL JOIN ME AT A SUMPTUOUS MEAL. THAT'S CUSTOMARY WITH THE CONDEMNED.

YOU'RE TIED IN THE CHAIR ONLY AS A PRECAUTION -- SO YOU WON'T TRY TO ESCAPE, AND SPOIL MY MEAL-
COPR. 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.

NOT HUNGRY, MY DEAR? I'M SORRY ABOUT ALL THIS. BUT WHEN PEOPLE BETRAY ME, I MUST BE FIRM IF I WEREN'T-
2-26
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED

SUDDENLY, THE ROOM IS PLUNGED INTO DARKNESS!
HEY! WHAT HAPPENED TO THE LIGHTS?

EVERY LIGHT IN THE HOUSE IS OUT!
MUST BE A MASTER FUSE! TRIG, GET DOWN TO THE CELLAR WITH A FLASHLIGHT!
COPR 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.


HMM--
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED

SOME JOKER PULLED THE SWITCH, BUT- WHAT'S THE MATTER, MISTER?
2-27

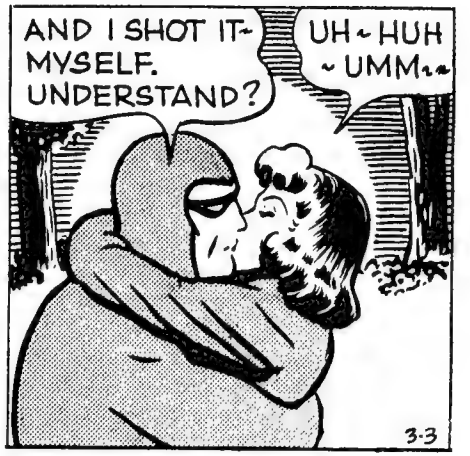
THE GIRL- TIED IN THAT CHAIR! SHE'S -- GONE!

SHE WAS TIED SECURELY FROM BEHIND ~ SHE ONLY HAD A HALF-MINUTE ~ HOW COULD SHE ESCAPE ~~?
MAIN THING IS, SHE DID! BUT SHE CAN'T GET OFF THE GROUNDS! WE'LL FIND HER!
WAIT ~ LOOK ~ ON HER PLATE ~~!
2-28
COPR. 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED.
SIGN OF THE SKULL!
THE PHANTOM'S MARK!
WE SAW HIM SHOT ~ AT CLOSE RANGE ~ A DOZEN TIMES ~
~~AND DROPPED INTO THE WELL~~
~~AND HE'S STILL DOWN THERE ~ OR IS HE?
3-1
COPR. 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.
HE IS THE GHOST WHO WALKS ~~ HE IS THE MAN WHO CANNOT DIE ~~~
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED.

NIGHT ~ ON MISTER HOG'S ESTATE ~~
COPR. 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.

DARLING ~ I THOUGHT YOU WERE DEAD ~ I SAW THEM CARRY YOU IN THAT SACK ~ I SAW THEM SHOOT YOU ~~ A DOZEN TIMES ~~!
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED

~ THEN I SAW THEM PUSH YOU INTO THE WELL!
YOU MEAN, IF I'M NOT DEAD, I SHOULD BE? I WASN'T IN THAT SACK. A BEEF WAS.


AND I SHOT IT ~ MYSELF. UNDERSTAND?
UH ~ HUH ~ UMM~~
3-3

WE'RE GETTING OUT OF HERE AT ONCE! CLOSE UP THE PLACE!

WE'VE GOT TO GET THE POLICE HERE BEFORE THIS GANG SCATTERS! OR IT'LL TAKE YEARS TO ROUND THEM UP!
COPR. 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.

HOW CAN WE GET TO TOWN?
IN THAT CAR.
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED

I'M SURE THIS ~ GENTLEMAN ~ WILL BE GLAD ~~ TO OBLIGE!
3-4

THERE'LL BE A GUARD AT THE GATE. YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO, DIANA.
AYE, AYE CAPTAIN.
3-5

THE PALMER DAME! WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING?
MISTER HOG SENT ME OUT WITH A SPECIAL PACKAGE.
COPR 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.

YEAH? NOBUDDY TOLD ME. WHERE IS IT?
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED

HERE!

DARLING, I BROUGHT THE POLICE CHIEF OUT HERE BEFORE ON WHAT HE THOUGHT WAS A WILD-GOOSE CHASE.
3-6

HE'LL NEVER BELIEVE ME NOW~~
YOU MUST CONVINCE HIM~ AND BRING HIM BACK WITH A RIOT SQUAD~ BEFORE THIS GANG SCATTERS!
COPR 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.

I'LL HOLD THEM HERE UNTIL YOU RETURN.
YOU'RE STAYING~ HERE? DARLING~ YOU CAN'T GO BACK TO THAT HORRIBLE PLACE! LEAVE~ WITH ME!
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED

HE'S SO STUBBORN! T.N.T. WOULDN'T BUDGE HIM! THE CHIEF'S GOT TO BELIEVE ME THIS TIME~ HE'S GOT TO!

MISTER HOG'S GANG PREPARES TO LEAVE ~~ MOVING THE FURNITURE BETWEEN THE DOUBLE WALLS OF THE HOUSE~~
COPR. 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.
WAIT~ WAIT! I MUST BE LOSING MY GRIP! THE PHANTOM IS DEAD! WE ALL SAW HIM DIE!
3-7
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED
THE PALMER GIRL LEFT THIS MARK~HERSELF~AND ESCAPED! SEARCH THE GROUNDS FOR HER! WE'LL GET THE TRUTH OUT OF HER!
WE DON'T KNOW SHE DID IT~
THAT'S THE PHANTOM'S MARK~~
IT'S DARK OUT THERE~
ARE WE INFANTS, OR SAVAGES? THE DEAD CAN'T RETURN!
THE GHOST WHO WALKS~~ CAN~~
BOSH! WE PUMPED A DOZEN BULLETS INTO HIM~AND DUMPED HIM INTO THE WELL! HE'S STILL THERE! DEAD! I'LL PROVE IT!
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED
I THINK MISTER'S RIGHT! LET'S~~
OWWWW--
3-8

OWWWW—
COPR. 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.

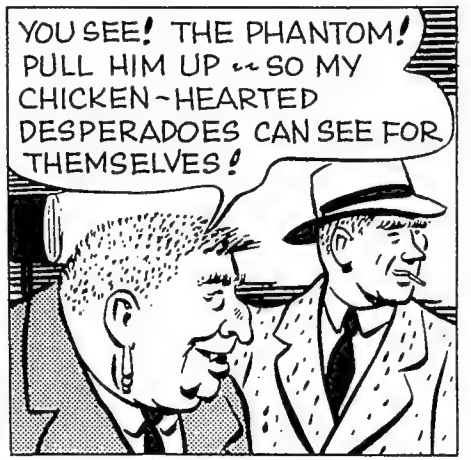
YOU GOIN' BATTY?
I SAW HIS FACE~~ SAW HIS FACE!
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED

BOSH! HE'S HYSTERICAL.
YEAH?
3-10

I'LL PROVE THE PHANTOM IS DEAD! WE'LL PULL HIM UP OUT OF THE WELL!
WHAT IF HE~ AIN'T THERE?

WHAT IF THE PHANTOM~ WITH TWELVE BULLETS IN HIM~ AIN'T IN THE WELL?
I REFUSE TO THINK ABOUT IT~ WE'LL SEE!
COPR. 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.

HOOKED SOMETHIN'!
IT'S THE SACK.
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED


YOU SEE! THE PHANTOM! PULL HIM UP ~~ SO MY CHICKEN~HEARTED DESPERADOES CAN SEE FOR THEMSELVES!

3-11

THE HEAVY SACK IS PULLED FROM THE WELL~~
COPR. 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.

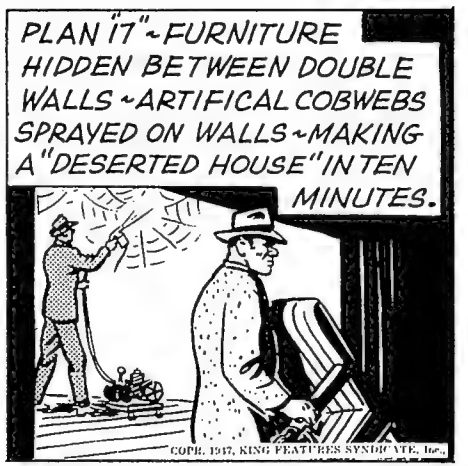
IT AIN'T THE PHANTOM~~ IT'S ~ A SIDE OF BEEF!
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED.

FROM MY KITCHEN! HE'S TRICKED US! I DON'T KNOW HOW~ BUT HE DID!
HE'S STILL ALIVE~~ OUT HERE SOMEWHERE~
3-12

RUNNING~ LIKE A PACK OF COWARDS! HEY~ DON'T LEAVE ME OUT HERE ALONE! WAIT FOR ME!

THE CAR'S GONE. AND THERE'S NO ANSWER FROM THE GATE GUARD. HE'S PROBABLY ~~ SLUGGED!

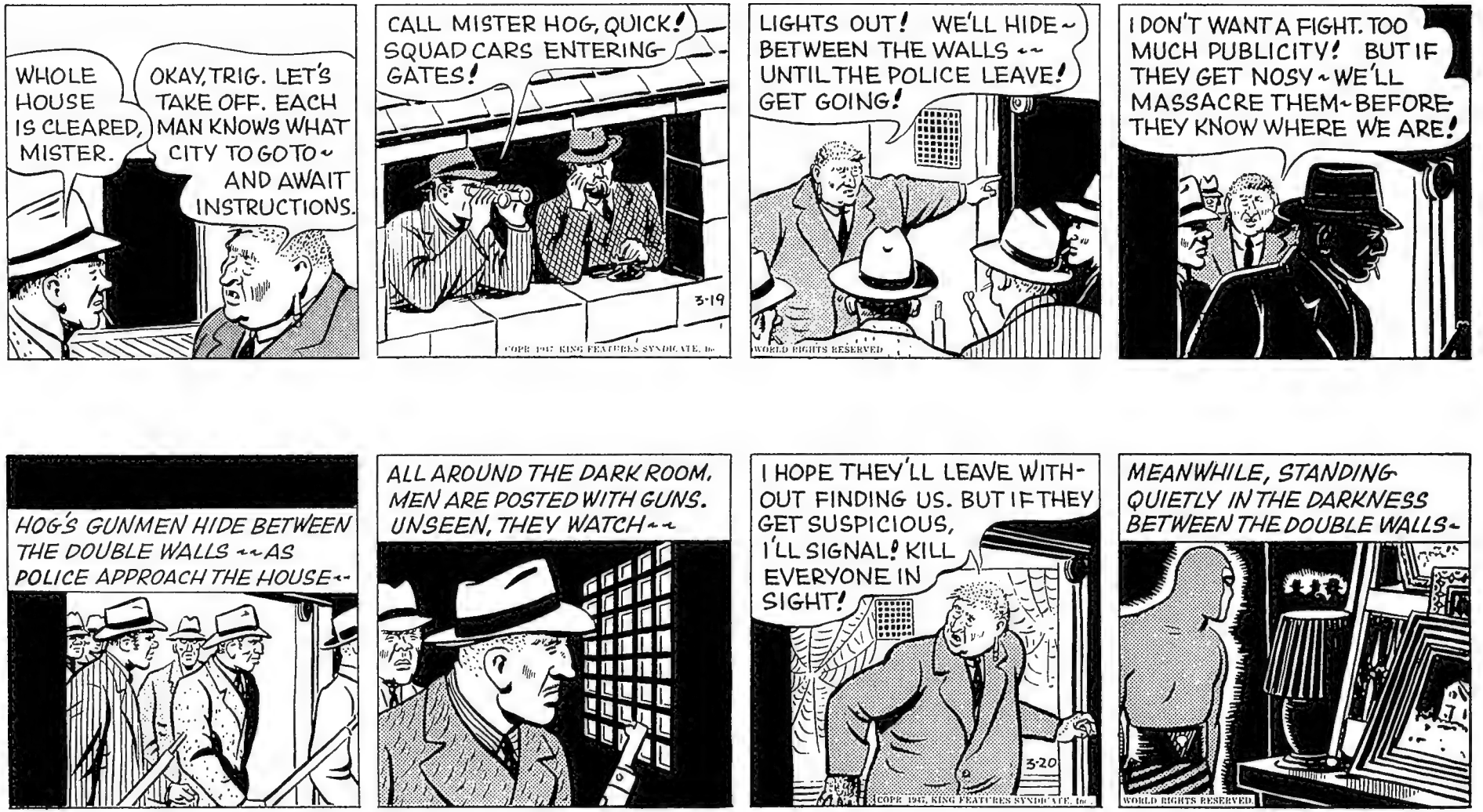
THE PHANTOM AND DIANA HAVE GONE TO THE POLICE! PUT PLAN "17" INTO EFFECT AT ONCE!


PLAN "17"~ FURNITURE HIDDEN BETWEEN DOUBLE WALLS ~ ARTIFICAL COBWEBS SPRAYED ON WALLS ~ MAKING A "DESERTED HOUSE" IN TEN MINUTES.
COPR. 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.

THERE THEY GO AGAIN! I'VE GOT TO HOLD THEM HERE UNTIL DIANA RETURNS WITH THE POLICE! BUT HOW?
3-13
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED.

OKAY~THIS ROOM'S CLEARED. LET'S GET THE NEXT ONE.
3-14
COPR. 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED
WHY ISN'T THIS ROOM CLEARED?
BUT, MISTER~ WE JUST DID CLEAR IT!
WE JUST DID CLEAR THIS ROOM~UH~
DON'T LIE TO ME! I GUESS THE FURNITURE WALKED BACK OUT OF THE DOUBLE WALLS! CLEAR THE ROOM!
3-15
THE POLICE DON'T KNOW WE EXIST! WHEN THEY ARRIVE, THEY MUST FIND A "DESERTED" HOUSE! OTHERWISE, THEY'LL BELIEVE DIANA'S STORY!
I CAN'T KEEP MOVING FURNITURE ALL NIGHT. IF ONLY DIANA WILL GET BACK WITH THE POLICE~ BEFORE THIS GANG GETS AWAY!
COPR. 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.
MISS DIANA PALMER TO SEE YOU, CHIEF.
THAT HYSTERICAL GIRL AGAIN? TELL HER I'M NOT IN!
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED

THE PALMER GIRL TOOK US ON ONE WILD-GOOSE CHASE. SHE MUST'VE HAD ANOTHER NIGHT-MARE. SEND HER HOME.
HE WON'T~SEE ME? HE MUST~HE'S GOT TO BELIEVE THE GANG EXISTS! IT'S A MATTER OF~LIFE AND DEATH!
THEY THINK I'M~BALMY. AND THE PHANTOM~ALONE OUT THERE, HOLDING THE GANG~DEPENDING ON ME! WHAT'LL I DO? OH ~~I KNOW!
3-17
UNCLE DAVE! YOU'RE A PAL OF THE CHIEF'S! WAKE UP! YOU'VE GOT TO HELP ME!
HUH
DAVE, I'D LIKE TO OBLIGE YOU, BUT YOUR NIECE LED US ON ONE WILD-GOOSE CHASE~TO A DESERTED HOUSE~I CAN'T~
GUS, I KNOW DIANA. SHE'S GOT A LEVEL HEAD, AND SHE'S TELLING THE TRUTH. I BELIEVE THIS "HOG" GANG EXISTS.
IF SHE'S RIGHT, YOUR "CRIME WAVE" IS SOLVED!
HMM. DAVE, I WOULDN'T DO THIS FOR ANYONE BUT YOU! WE'LL TRY AGAIN~~ BUT IF IT'S ANOTHER PHONY~~!
DIANA~YOU'RE SURE ABOUT THIS?
OF COURSE! BUT WE'VE GOT TO HURRY!
3-18


WHOLE HOUSE IS CLEARED, MISTER.
OKAY, TRIG. LET'S TAKE OFF. EACH MAN KNOWS WHAT CITY TO GO TO ~ AND AWAIT INSTRUCTIONS.
CALL MISTER HOG, QUICK! SQUAD CARS ENTERING GATES!
3-19
COPR 1947 KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.
LIGHTS OUT! WE'LL HIDE ~ BETWEEN THE WALLS ~~ UNTIL THE POLICE LEAVE! GET GOING!
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED
I DON'T WANT A FIGHT. TOO MUCH PUBLICITY! BUT IF THEY GET NOSY ~ WE'LL MASSACRE THEM ~ BEFORE THEY KNOW WHERE WE ARE!
HOG'S GUNMEN HIDE BETWEEN THE DOUBLE WALLS ~~ AS POLICE APPROACH THE HOUSE ~~
ALL AROUND THE DARK ROOM, MEN ARE POSTED WITH GUNS. UNSEEN, THEY WATCH ~~
I HOPE THEY'LL LEAVE WITHOUT FINDING US. BUT IF THEY GET SUSPICIOUS, I'LL SIGNAL! KILL EVERYONE IN SIGHT!
3-20
COPR 1947 KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.
MEANWHILE, STANDING QUIETLY IN THE DARKNESS BETWEEN THE DOUBLE WALLS ~
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED

THE HOUSE IS JUST OVER THE RIDGE.
I KNOW~AND THERE'D BETTER BE SOMEBODY IN IT!

COPR 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.

WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED.

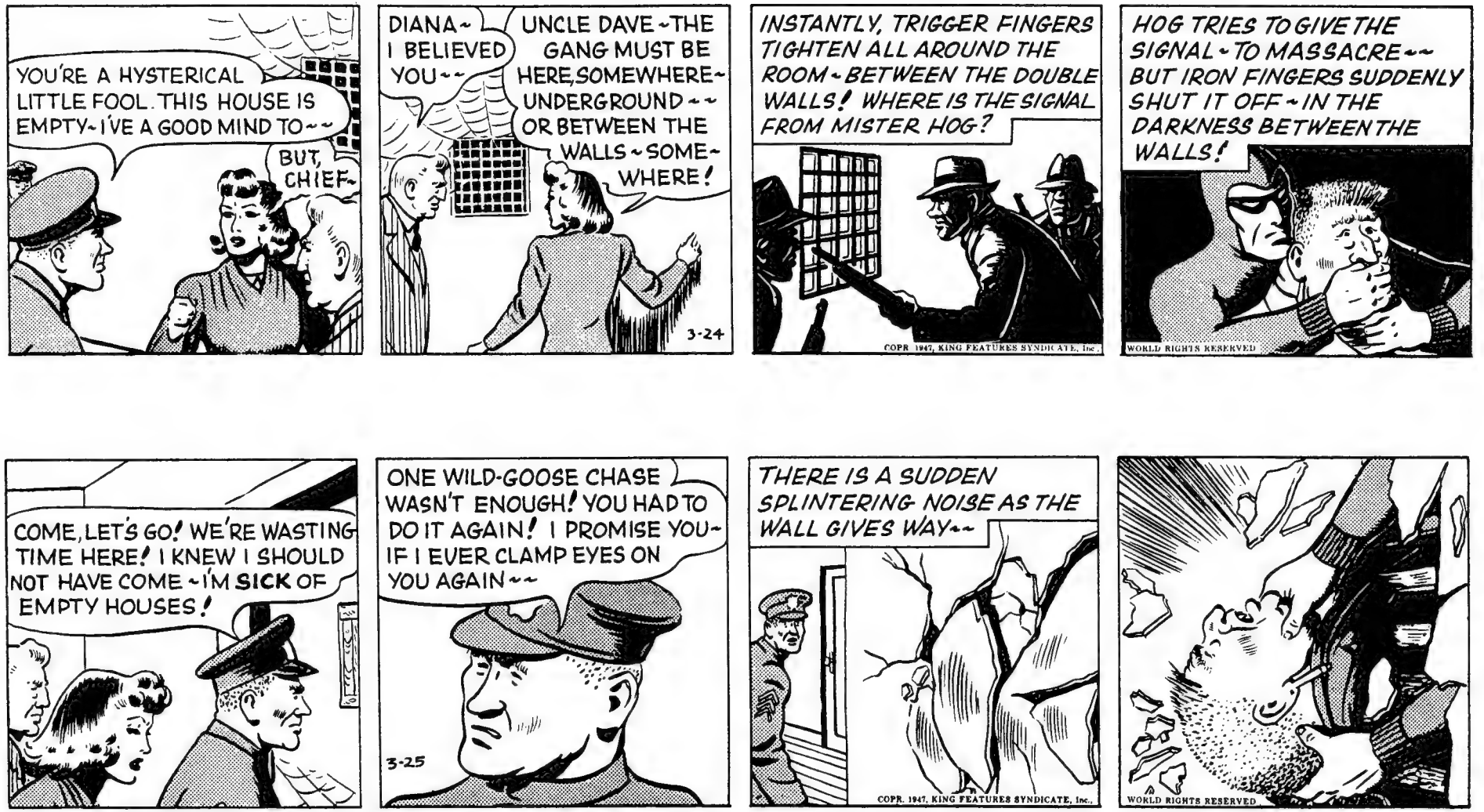
WHAT WE LOOKING FOR? SPOOKS? THIS PLACE'S DESERTED!
3-21

WE'VE SEARCHED FROM ATTIC TO CELLAR. THE PLACE IS DESERTED, CHIEF.

SO~I FELL FOR IT AGAIN! WILD-GOOSE CHASE! EMPTY HOUSE!
CHIEF~THIS HOUSE~WAS FULL~OF GUN-MEN~FURNITURE~~WEAPONS~~
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED.

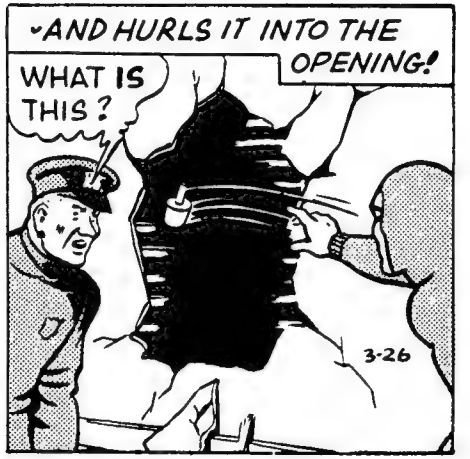
THE PHANTOM SAID HE'D HOLD THEM HERE~THERE MUST BE SOME TRACE~~
DAVE~I LET YOU TALK ME INTO THIS~! NOW SHE'S BEEN TALKING TO PHANTOMS!
3-22

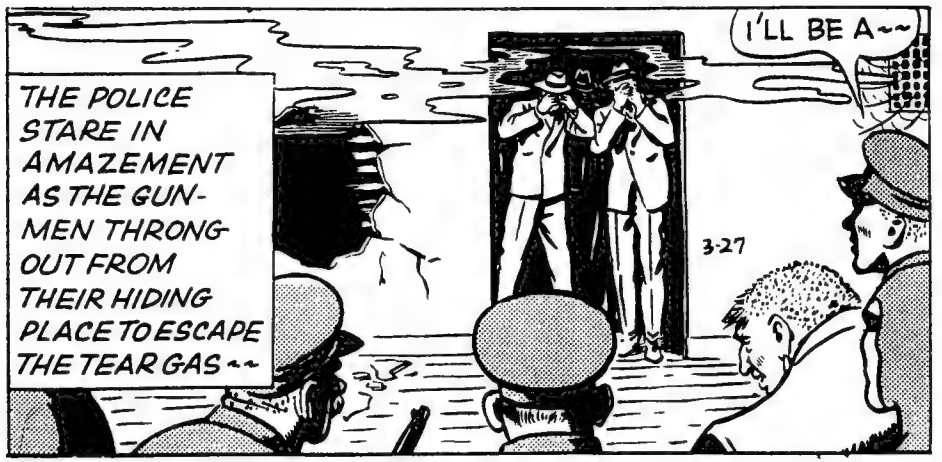
BETWEEN THE DOUBLE WALLS, THE GUNMEN WATCH SILENTLY~WAITING FOR MISTER HOG'S SIGNAL TO MASSACRE!


YOU'RE A HYSTERICAL LITTLE FOOL. THIS HOUSE IS EMPTY~I'VE A GOOD MIND TO~~
BUT, CHIEF~
DIANA~ I BELIEVED YOU~~
UNCLE DAVE~THE GANG MUST BE HERE, SOMEWHERE~ UNDERGROUND~~ OR BETWEEN THE WALLS~SOME~ WHERE!
3-24
INSTANTLY, TRIGGER FINGERS TIGHTEN ALL AROUND THE ROOM~BETWEEN THE DOUBLE WALLS! WHERE IS THE SIGNAL FROM MISTER HOG?
COPR. 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.
HOG TRIES TO GIVE THE SIGNAL~TO MASSACRE~~ BUT IRON FINGERS SUDDENLY SHUT IT OFF~IN THE DARKNESS BETWEEN THE WALLS!
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED
COME, LET'S GO! WE'RE WASTING TIME HERE! I KNEW I SHOULD NOT HAVE COME~I'M SICK OF EMPTY HOUSES!
ONE WILD-GOOSE CHASE WASN'T ENOUGH! YOU HAD TO DO IT AGAIN! I PROMISE YOU~ IF I EVER CLAMP EYES ON YOU AGAIN~~
3-25
THERE IS A SUDDEN SPLINTERING NOISE AS THE WALL GIVES WAY~~
COPR. 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED

THE PHANTOM SUDDENLY CRASHES THRU THE WALL WITH MISTER HOG~~
MEET MISTER HOG!
WHAT IN BLAZES!? WHO ARE YOU?
COPR 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.

THE PHANTOM SPEEDS TO THE NEAREST POLICEMAN~ SNATCHES HIS TEAR-GAS BOMB~
MAY I BORROW THIS?
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED.

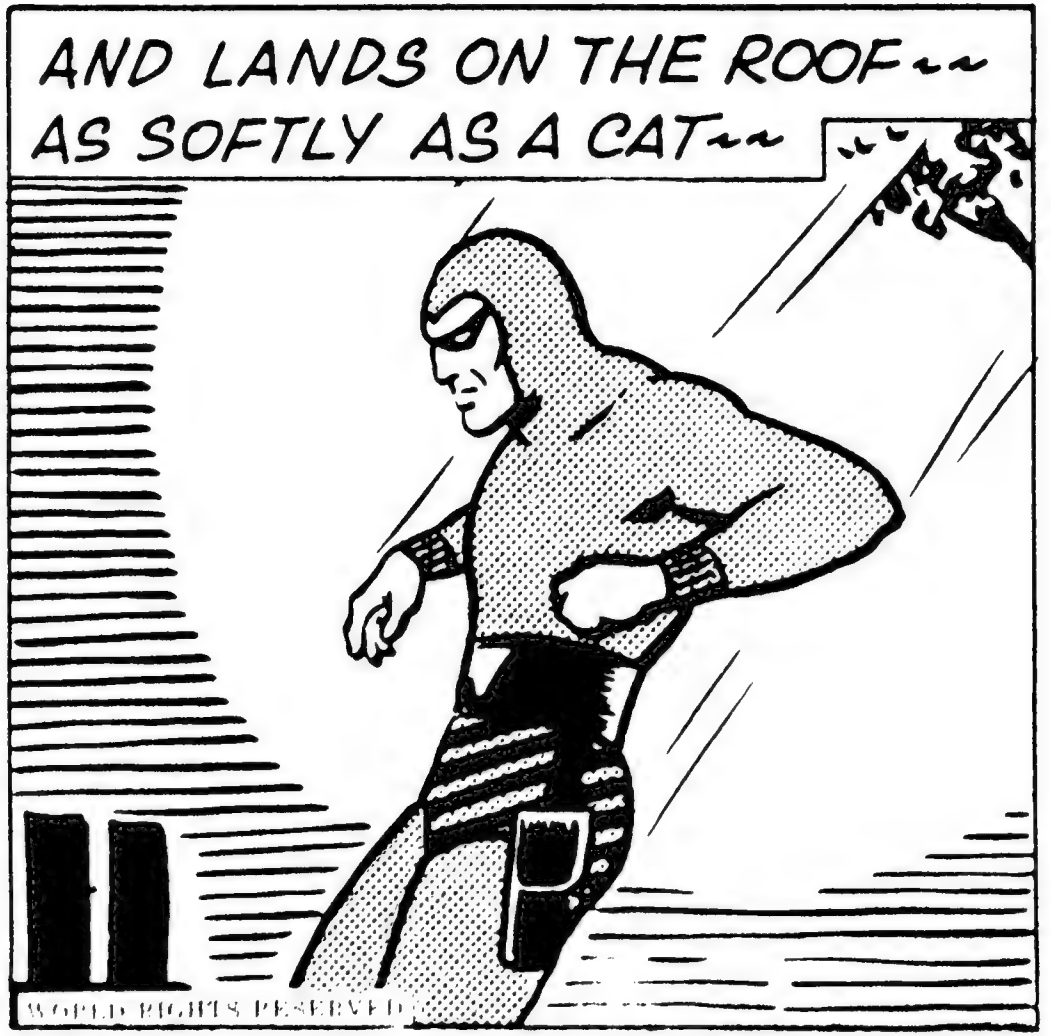

~AND HURLS IT INTO THE OPENING!
WHAT IS THIS?
3-26


THE POLICE STARE IN AMAZEMENT AS THE GUN-MEN THRONG OUT FROM THEIR HIDING PLACE TO ESCAPE THE TEAR GAS~~
I'LL BE A~~
3-27

MIND EXPLAINING THIS TO A DIZZY OLD MAN?
THE BIGGEST CRIMINAL GANG IN THE COUNTRY, CHIEF. ALL WRAPPED UP FOR YOU.
COPR 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.

OH, DARLING~ I KNEW I COULD DEPEND ON YOU~~
THAT MAKES US EVEN. I KNEW YOU'D COME THRU, TOO!
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED.

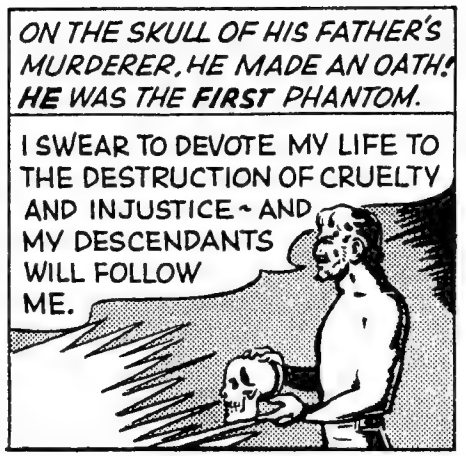
DAVE, IT'S AMAZING~AN ENORMOUS GANG-BLACKMAILERS, THIEVES, RACKETEERS~~ WORKING SO CLEVERLY WE DIDN'T KNOW THEY EXISTED!
MISTER HOG'S LEDGERS! HE OPERATED LIKE A BIG BUSINESS- EVERY STEP TIMED LIKE CLOCKWORK!
COPR 1947 KING FEATURES SYNDICATE Inc.
AND IF IT HADN'T BEEN FOR YOU AND YOUR "WILD-GOOSE CHASES," WE MIGHT NEVER HAVE CAUGHT THEM. WILL YOU FORGIVE ME FOR DOUBTING YOU?
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED
I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN THAT A GIRL AS PRETTY AS YOU COULDN'T TELL A LIE.
AFTER THAT~ HOW CAN I HELP FOR-GIVING YOU?
3-28
X¢&?@@@ YOU HOODOO!
THIS IS INDEED A PLEASURE, MISTER HOG.
COPR 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE Inc.
TELL ME ONE THING. HOW DID YOU GET OUT OF THAT SACK~ AND PUT THE BEEF IN?
A GOOD QUESTION. BUT I'LL LET YOU FIGURE IT OUT.
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED
YOU'LL HAVE PLENTY OF TIME TO DO IT HERE.
I CAN'T STAND THIS PLACE~~ THEY'LL ONLY FEED ME THREE TIMES A DAY~
SO ENDS MISTER HOG.
I'M STARVING! BRING ME SOME FOOD! I DEMAND FOOD~FOOD!
3-29

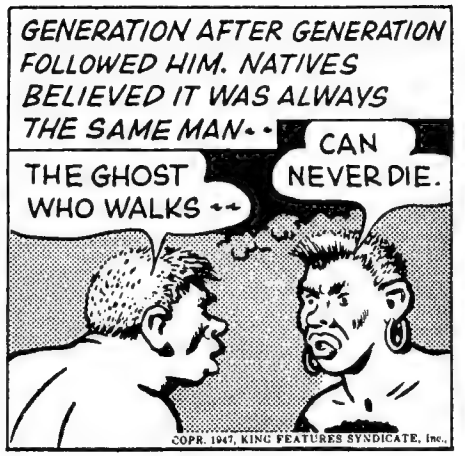

AND LANDS ON THE ROOF~~
AS SOFTLY AS A CAT~~
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED

Chapter Four: Romance and the Vesta Pirates

the PHANTOM®

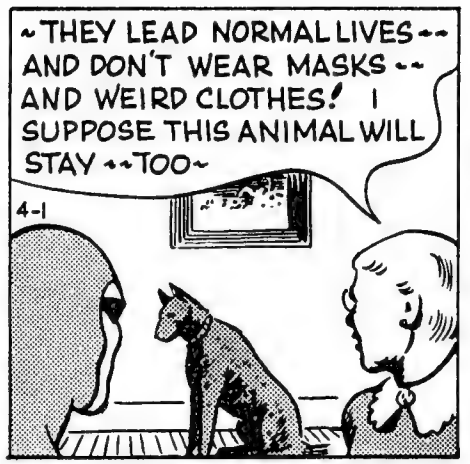
BEGINNING: "ROMANCE"
STORY OF THE PHANTOM: 400 YEARS AGO, THE LONE SURVIVOR OF A PIRATE RAID WAS WASHED ASHORE ON A REMOTE BENGALI BEACH--
3-31


ON THE SKULL OF HIS FATHER'S MURDERER, HE MADE AN OATH! HE WAS THE FIRST PHANTOM.
I SWEAR TO DEVOTE MY LIFE TO THE DESTRUCTION OF CRUELTY AND INJUSTICE - AND MY DESCENDANTS WILL FOLLOW ME.


GENERATION AFTER GENERATION FOLLOWED HIM. NATIVES BELIEVED IT WAS ALWAYS THE SAME MAN--
THE GHOST WHO WALKS --
CAN NEVER DIE.
COPR. 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.,

SO THE LEGEND GREW - THE IMMORTAL NEMESIS OF EVIL-DOERS EVERYWHERE - A NAME WHISPERED, LOVED AND FEARED - THE PHANTOM!
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED

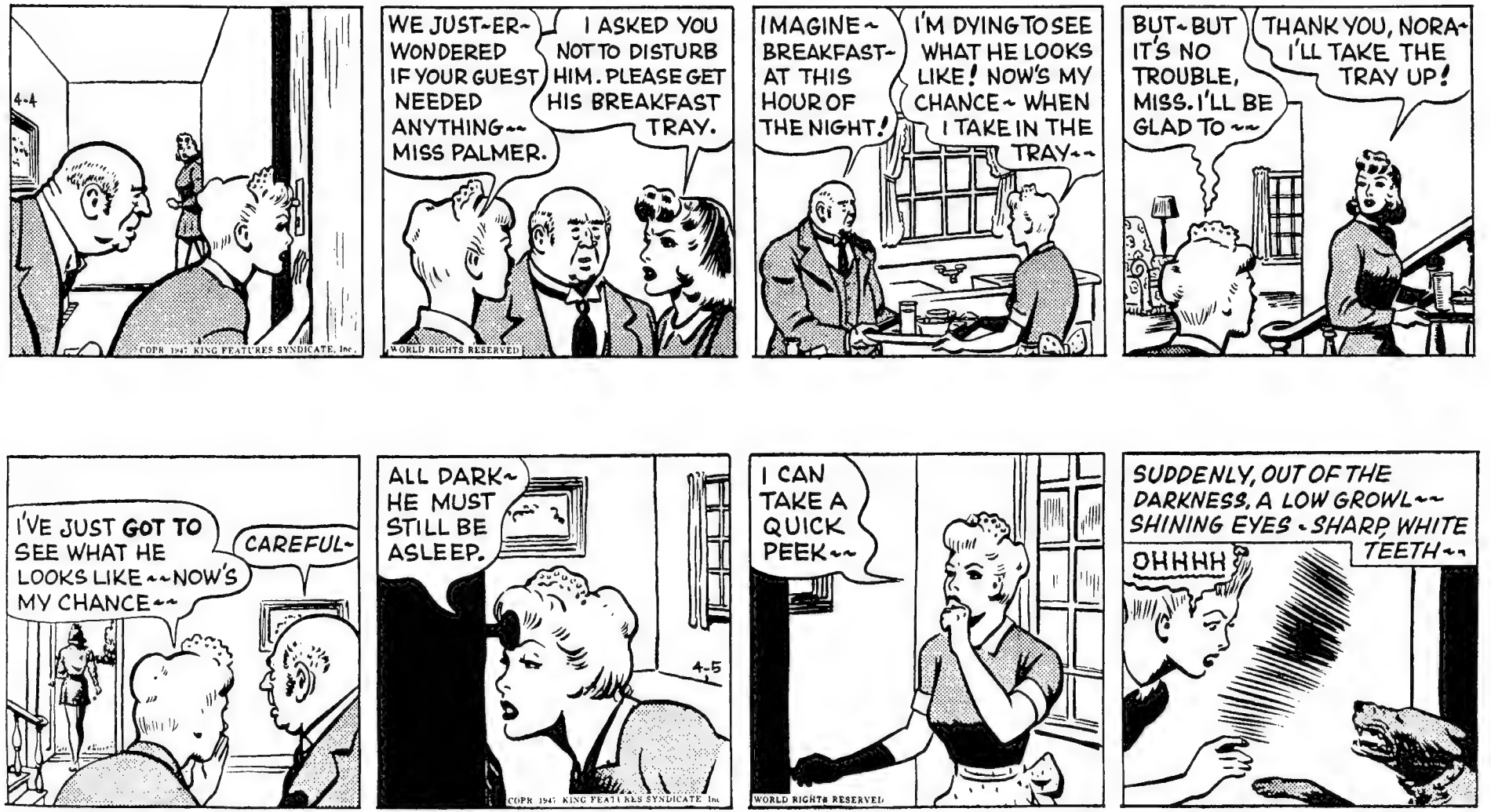
MAMA, YOU DON'T MIND IF HE STAYS HERE WITH US A FEW DAYS, DO YOU?
HMM - MOST MEN I KNOW HAVE REGULAR JOBS--


- THEY LEAD NORMAL LIVES-- AND DON'T WEAR MASKS -- AND WEIRD CLOTHES! I SUPPOSE THIS ANIMAL WILL STAY --TOO-
4-1

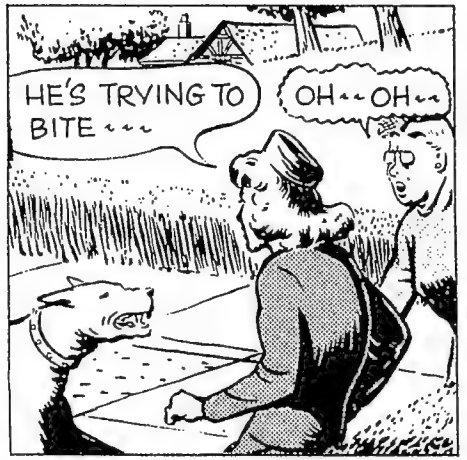
BUT HOW CAN I EXPLAIN YOU - TO MY FRIENDS - TO THE SERVANTS?
DON'T TRY, MAMA.
COPR. 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.,

AND DON'T CALL ME MAMA!
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED

I CAN CERTAINLY USE SOME SHUT-EYE, DEVIL. I HAVEN'T SLEPT IN A WEEK--
EXHAUSTED - BUT CAN'T SLEEP. THIS BED'S TOO SOFT. USED TO SLEEPING ON THE GROUND--
4-2
COPR. 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.,
THE IDEA - SLEEPING ON THE FLOOR - AND I WON'T HAVE THAT DOG ON MY BEST BED!
NOW, MAMA-
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED
IS HE GOING TO SLEEP ALL DAY?
HE'S USED TO SLEEPING IN THE DAY AND WORKING AT NIGHT.
4-3
COPR 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.,
LIKE A BURGLAR
MAMA, I WANT YOU TO STOP SAYING NASTY THINGS ABOUT HIM! YOU JUST WON'T UNDERSTAND HIM!
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED
DON'T YOU REALIZE THAT MILLIONS OF PEOPLE PRACTICALLY WORSHIP HIM! HE'S LIKE AN EMPEROR IN THE JUNGLE - AND--HE FIGHTS EVIL AND--
--AND SLEEPS WITH HIS OUTLANDISH CLOTHES ON-- LIVES IN A CAVE - LIKE A SAVAGE. I'LL BET HE EATS RAW MEAT.


4-4
COPR 1947 KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.
WE JUST~ER~ WONDERED IF YOUR GUEST NEEDED ANYTHING~~ MISS PALMER.
I ASKED YOU NOT TO DISTURB HIM. PLEASE GET HIS BREAKFAST TRAY.
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED
IMAGINE~ BREAKFAST~ AT THIS HOUR OF THE NIGHT!
I'M DYING TO SEE WHAT HE LOOKS LIKE! NOW'S MY CHANCE~ WHEN I TAKE IN THE TRAY~~
BUT~BUT IT'S NO TROUBLE, MISS. I'LL BE GLAD TO~~
THANK YOU, NORA~ I'LL TAKE THE TRAY UP!
I'VE JUST GOT TO SEE WHAT HE LOOKS LIKE~~NOW'S MY CHANCE~~
CAREFUL~
ALL DARK~ HE MUST STILL BE ASLEEP.
4-5
COPR 1947 KING FEATURES SYNDICATE Inc
I CAN TAKE A QUICK PEEK~~
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED
SUDDENLY, OUT OF THE DARKNESS, A LOW GROWL~~ SHINING EYES - SHARP WHITE TEETH~~
OHHHH

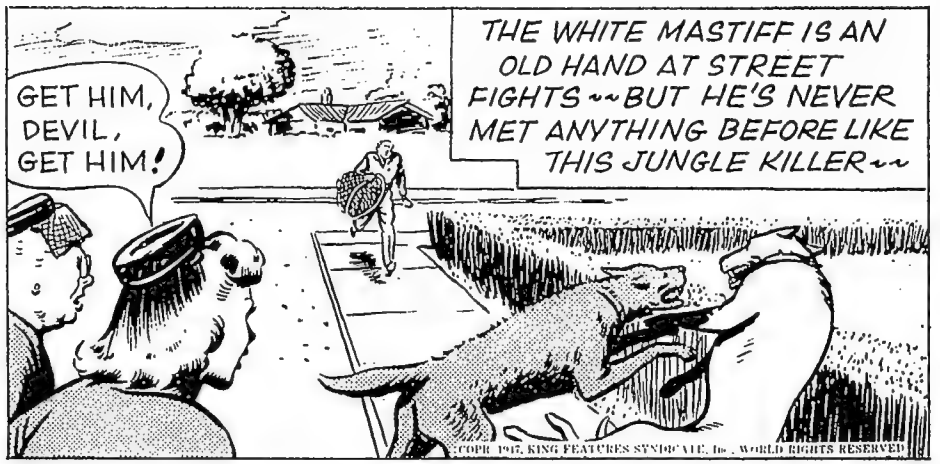
HELP~~ HELP~~
4-7
DEVIL~STOP THAT! COME HERE, YOU BAD BOY!
I'M QUITTING! I WON'T STAY IN THIS HOUSE ANOTHER MINUTE WITH THAT WILD ANIMAL~~~
BUT, NORA~~
COPR. 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.
NOW~ YOU SEE! THE BEST MAID WE EVER HAD~~
DON'T BLAME DEVIL, MAMA. HIS MASTER WAS ASLEEP~ HE THOUGHT HE WAS DEFENDING HIM.
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED
I WON'T BE FOLLOWED BY THAT WILD BEAST!
STAY THERE, DEVIL.
I WON'T HAVE THAT ANIMAL IN MY HOME, DIANA! HE'S DANGEROUS, AND-
WHAT'S THAT~~?
LOOK OUT! HE'S VICIOUS!
COPR. 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.
GET BEHIND ME, MAMA! HE'S REALLY NASTY~~
GO AWAY~ GO AWAY~~
4-8
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED


HE'S TRYING TO BITE ~~~
OH~~OH~~

CAREFUL~ HE'S A KILLER~~ A BAD ONE ~~! LOOK OUT, MA'AM
COPR. 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.

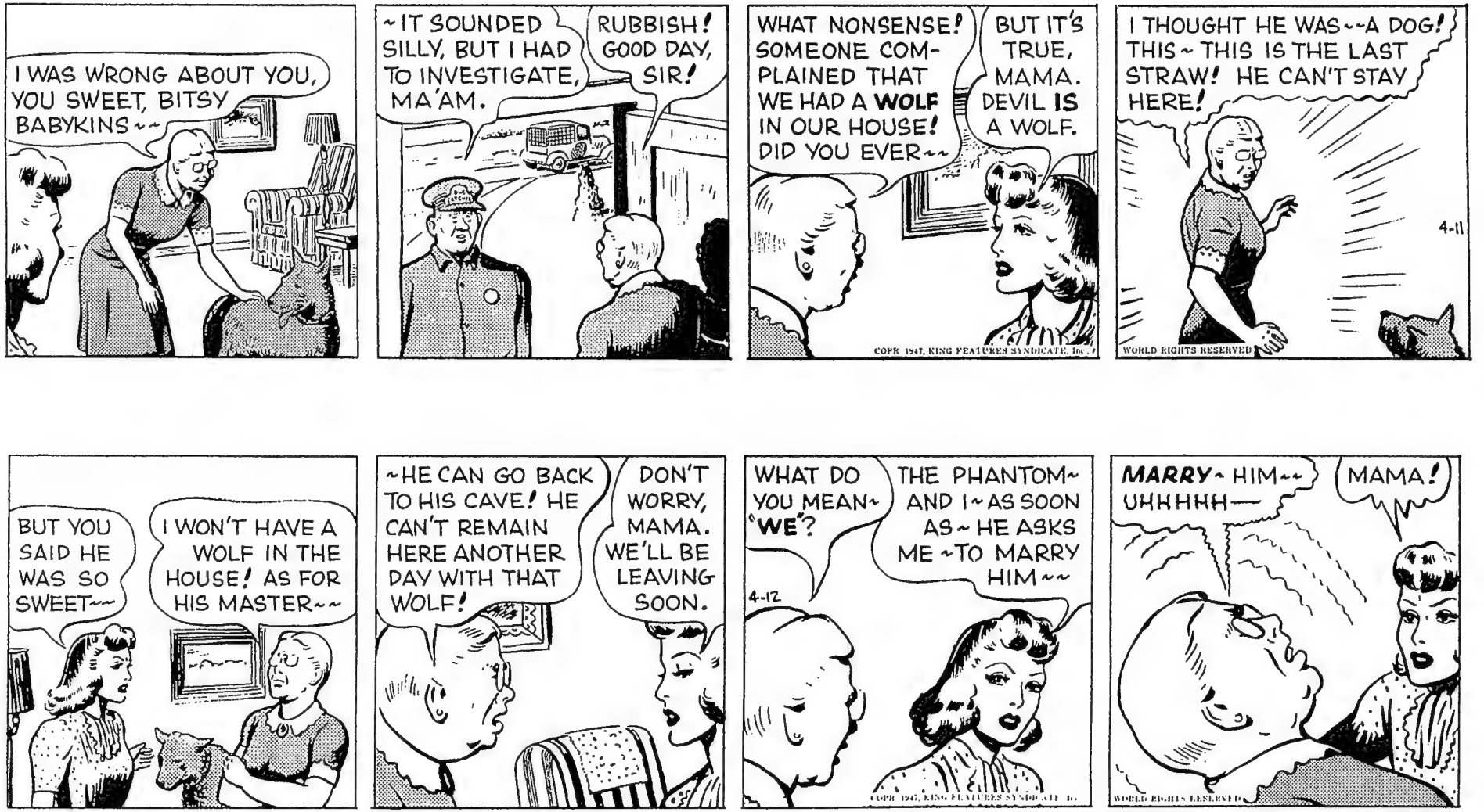
AS THE WHITE MASTIFF LAUNCHES HIMSELF AT DIANA ~ A GRAY FORM FLASHES OVER THE HEDGE~
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED

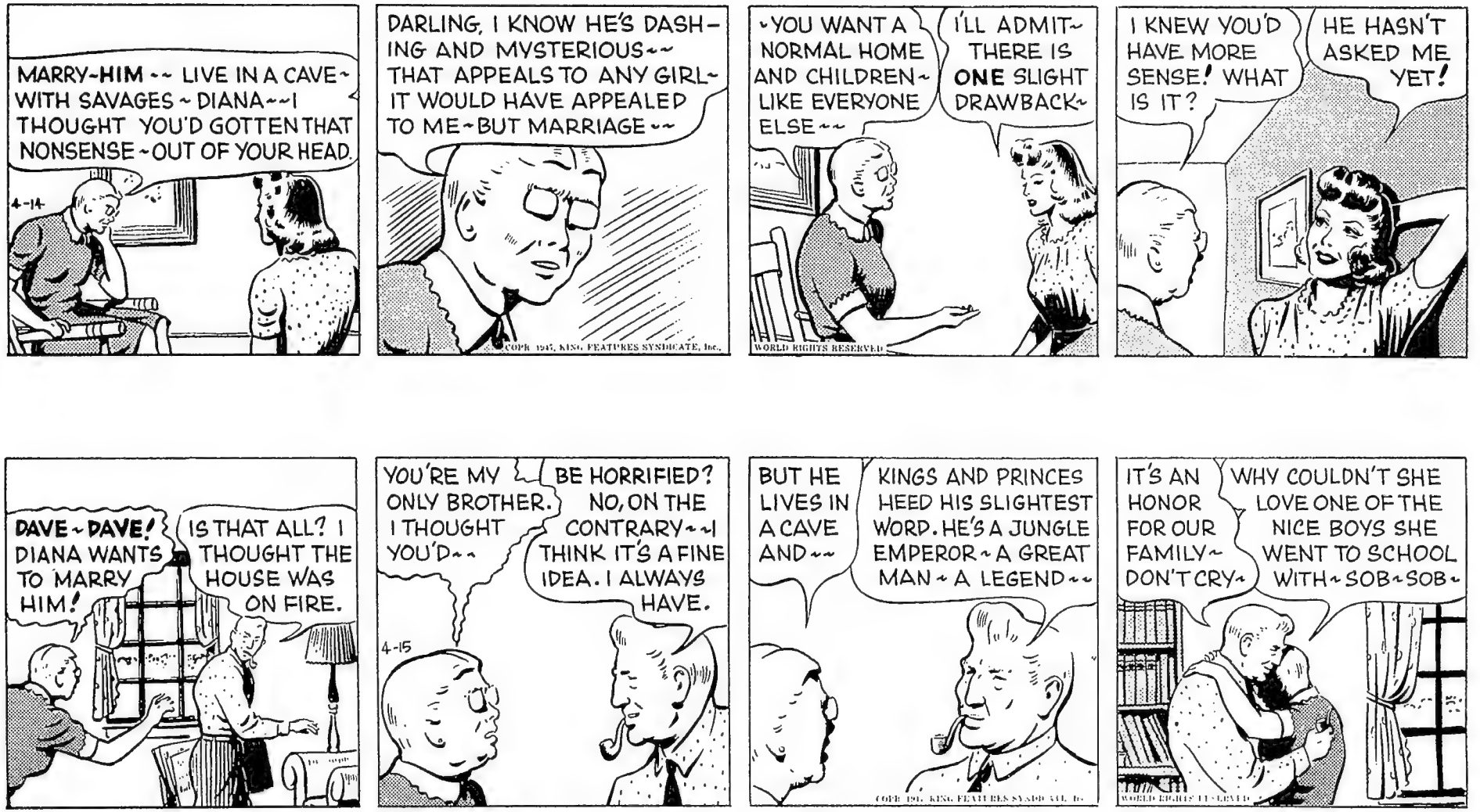
4-9


GET HIM, DEVIL, GET HIM!
THE WHITE MASTIFF IS AN OLD HAND AT STREET FIGHTS ~~BUT HE'S NEVER MET ANYTHING BEFORE LIKE THIS JUNGLE KILLER~~
COPR. 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc., WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED

MOST VICIOUS DOG IN TOWN~~ LOOKS LIKE ALL THE FIGHT'S OUT OF YOU, BIG BOY!
4-10

DEVIL, YOU SWEET THING~~ YOU'RE SO WONDERFUL
I BELIEVE HE'S BLUSHING!


I WAS WRONG ABOUT YOU, YOU SWEET, BITSY BABYKINS~~
~IT SOUNDED SILLY, BUT I HAD TO INVESTIGATE, MA'AM.
RUBBISH! GOOD DAY, SIR!
WHAT NONSENSE! SOMEONE COMPLAINED THAT WE HAD A WOLF IN OUR HOUSE! DID YOU EVER~~
BUT IT'S TRUE, MAMA. DEVIL IS A WOLF.
COPR 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.
I THOUGHT HE WAS~~A DOG! THIS~ THIS IS THE LAST STRAW! HE CAN'T STAY HERE!
4-11
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED
BUT YOU SAID HE WAS SO SWEET~~
I WON'T HAVE A WOLF IN THE HOUSE! AS FOR HIS MASTER~~
~HE CAN GO BACK TO HIS CAVE! HE CAN'T REMAIN HERE ANOTHER DAY WITH THAT WOLF!
DON'T WORRY, MAMA. WE'LL BE LEAVING SOON.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN~ "WE"?
THE PHANTOM~ AND I~AS SOON AS~ HE ASKS ME ~TO MARRY HIM~~
4-12
MARRY~ HIM~~ UHHHHH—
MAMA!


MARRY-HIM -- LIVE IN A CAVE - WITH SAVAGES - DIANA--I THOUGHT YOU'D GOTTEN THAT NONSENSE - OUT OF YOUR HEAD.
4-14
DARLING, I KNOW HE'S DASHING AND MYSTERIOUS-- THAT APPEALS TO ANY GIRL- IT WOULD HAVE APPEALED TO ME - BUT MARRIAGE --
COPR 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.
-YOU WANT A NORMAL HOME AND CHILDREN - LIKE EVERYONE ELSE --
I'LL ADMIT- THERE IS ONE SLIGHT DRAWBACK-
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED
I KNEW YOU'D HAVE MORE SENSE! WHAT IS IT?
HE HASN'T ASKED ME YET!
DAVE - DAVE! DIANA WANTS TO MARRY HIM!
IS THAT ALL? I THOUGHT THE HOUSE WAS ON FIRE.
YOU'RE MY ONLY BROTHER. I THOUGHT YOU'D--
BE HORRIFIED? NO, ON THE CONTRARY--I THINK IT'S A FINE IDEA. I ALWAYS HAVE.
4-15
BUT HE LIVES IN A CAVE AND --
KINGS AND PRINCES HEED HIS SLIGHTEST WORD. HE'S A JUNGLE EMPEROR - A GREAT MAN - A LEGEND --
IT'S AN HONOR FOR OUR FAMILY - DON'T CRY-
WHY COULDN'T SHE LOVE ONE OF THE NICE BOYS SHE WENT TO SCHOOL WITH - SOB - SOB -

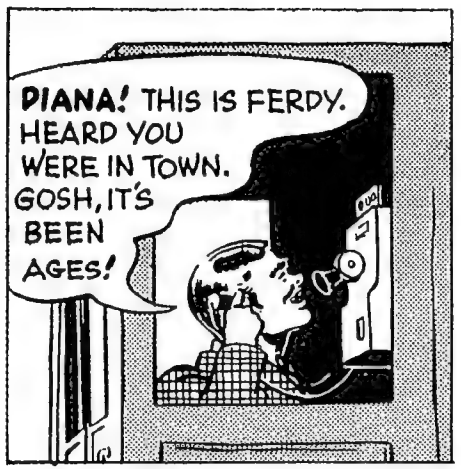
I'LL NEVER GIVE MY BLESSING~ NEVER~~ NEVER~~
HMM~ WHEN'S THE WEDDING SUPPOSED TO BE?
COPR. 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.
I DON'T KNOW. HE HASN'T ASKED HER YET.
OH, HO! MAYBE HE WON'T.
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED
WON'T? THAT BARBARIAN? THAT MASKED~ADVENTURER? HE'D BE THE LUCKIEST MAN IN THE WORLD TO GET DIANA~ AND HE KNOWS IT!
WON'T ASK HER? HE MOST CERTAINLY WILL!
4-16
HAVE A GOOD SLEEP?
WONDERFUL. AND THAT MEAL HIT THE SPOT.
4-17
THEY'RE WALKING IN THE GARDEN. THINK HE'LL ASK HER NOW?
I HOPE NOT~~I MEAN, I DON'T KNOW.
PERFUME IN THE AIR~ BIG MOON~ WONDERFUL NIGHT. WHAT ARE YOU THINKING ABOUT?
DIANA, I WAS WONDERING IF~~
COPR. 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.
~I COULD HAVE ANOTHER PIECE OF THAT DELICIOUS CHERRY PIE. I'M STILL HUNGRY.
PIE!
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED

A BIG MOON~ AND ALL YOU CAN THINK OF IS PIE!
WELL~ IT'S ABOUT THE SAME SHAPE~

DIANA~ WAIT A MINUTE~

DIANA, DARLING~ WHAT DID I DO? IS ANYTHING WRONG?
THE PIE'S IN THE KITCHEN~ DOWNSTAIRS!

DEVIL, ARE LADY WOLVES AS HARD TO UNDERSTAND?
4-18

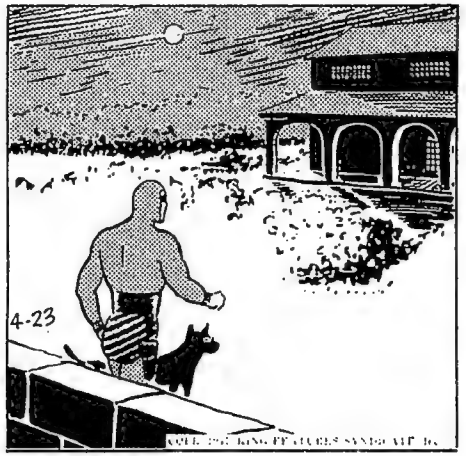

DIANA! THIS IS FERDY. HEARD YOU WERE IN TOWN. GOSH, IT'S BEEN AGES!

~I'D JUST LOVE TO GO TO THE CLUB DANCE, FERDY. IT'LL BE LIKE OLD TIMES. I'LL BE READY IN A JIFFY!

NOTHING'S HAPPENED, MAMA. I'M JUST GOING OUT!
YOU'VE COME TO YOUR SENSES! FERDY'S SUCH A NICE BOY~ ONE OF OUR BEST FAMILIES, TOO.

WHERE'S DIANA?
OUT! SHE ASKED ME NOT TO WAIT UP!
4-19

GOLLY, THIS IS LIKE OLD TIMES, DIANA. I NEVER DREAMED YOU'D DATE ME TONIGHT. GOSH, THE GANG AT THE CLUB'LL BE SURPRISED.
I TOLD YOU ~ SHE WENT TO A DANCE WITH FERDY ~ SUCH A NICE BOY ~ THEY WERE CHILDHOOD SWEETHEARTS ~~
4-21
MAMA IS FRIGHTENED. THE PLEASANT PHANTOM HAS SUDDENLY BECOME HARD AND COLD AS STEEL ~~
WHERE IS THE DANCE?
UH ~ COUNTRY CLUB ~ LADUE ROAD ~~
COME ON, DEVIL! FERDY, EH?
SEEMS LIKE A DREAM ~ TAKING YOU TO A CLUB DANCE AGAIN. REMEMBER THE OLD DAYS, DI?
I CERTAINLY DO.
DIANA PALMER! WHAT A SURPRISE!
IT'S BEEN YEARS!
WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?
I'M KEEPING YOU AWAY FROM THAT STAG LINE! THOSE BIRDS HAVE GOT THEIR EYE ON YOU!
MAYBE MAMA WAS RIGHT. THIS IS MY WORLD ~ WHERE I GREW UP ~~ WHERE I BELONG ~
4-22


4-23

DIANA, I HAVEN'T HAD A CHANCE TO TALK TO YOU SINCE WE GOT HERE~OH~ OH~ HERE COMES THE PACK!
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED

THIS IS MY DANCE, DI.
FERDY CAN'T MONOP'LIZE YOU.
GET IN LINE, YOU GUYS!

FOR THE FIRST TIME, THE PHANTOM KNOWS ~JEALOUSY!
WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH ME? I FEEL LIKE I'LL EXPLODE!

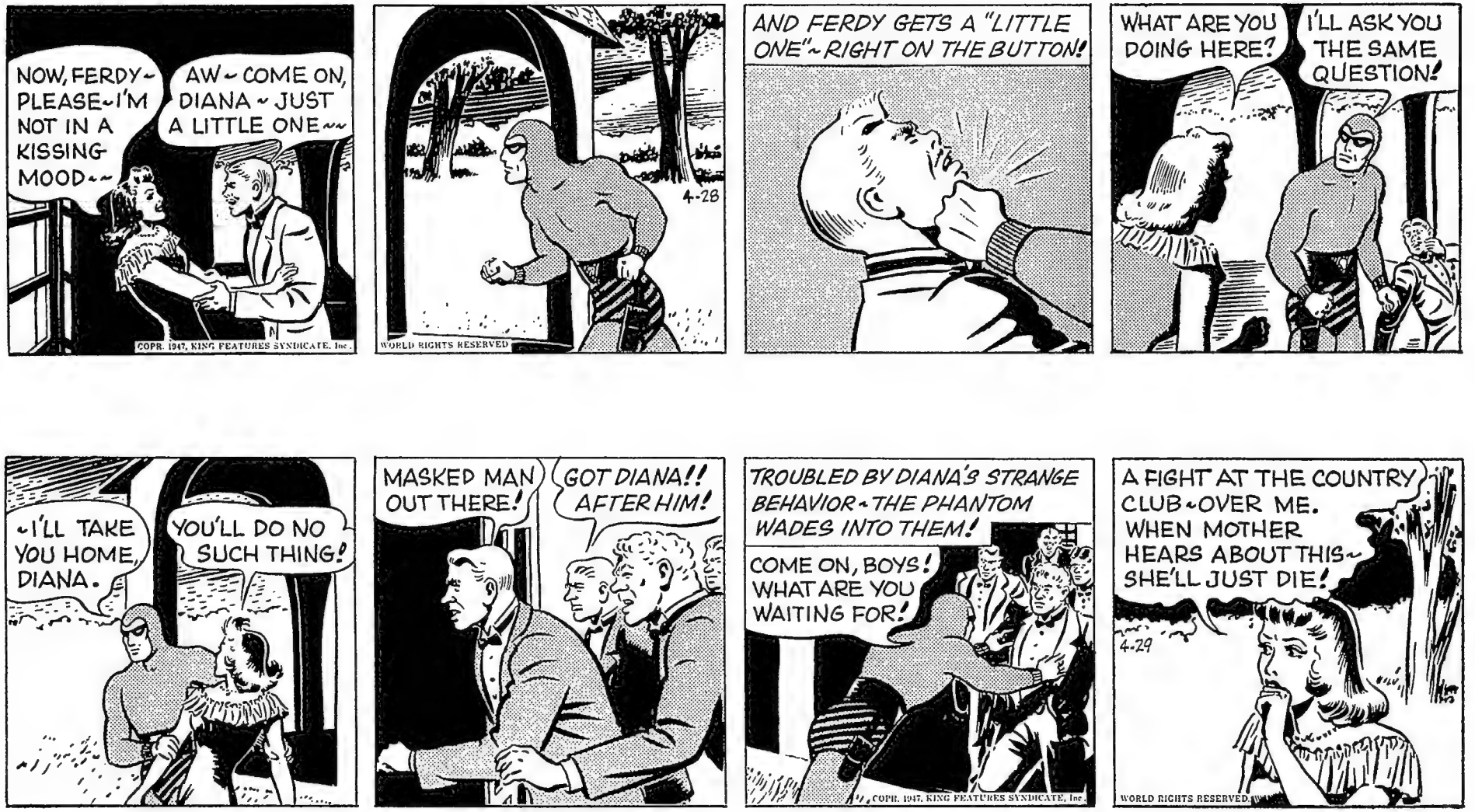
LEGGO, FERDY. MY TURN.
AWWW~~
4-24

BUT I JUST STARTED~~
ON YOUR WAY, SON.

IS THIS A MASQUERADE DANCE?
I DON'T THINK SO. BESIDES, HE LOOKS REAL.
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED.

IS HE TRYING TO CUT IN, TOO?
DEVIL!

DEVIL~ GO HOME!
WOOF.
I'LL GET RID OF HIM.
COME ON, BOY~~ WHOA~~
GRRRRRR~
I~TOLD~YOU~ TO~GO~~ HOME!
I GUESS~ SHE DOESN'T WANT~ EITHER OF US~~ ANY MORE.
4-25
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED
HEY~~
YOU WOLVES HAVE BEEN MONOPOLIZING MY DATE ALL EVENING!
GOLLY, DIANA. YOU LOOK BEAUTIFUL! KNOW WHAT? I HAVEN'T KISSED YOU SINCE HIGH SCHOOL!
YOU'LL NEVER CHANGE.
GOT TO MAKE UP FOR LOST TIME~~~
PLEASE DON'T, FERDY~~
4-26
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED


NOW, FERDY~ PLEASE~I'M NOT IN A KISSING MOOD~~
AW~ COME ON, DIANA ~ JUST A LITTLE ONE~~
COPR. 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.
4-28
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED
AND FERDY GETS A "LITTLE ONE"~ RIGHT ON THE BUTTON!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
I'LL ASK YOU THE SAME QUESTION!
~I'LL TAKE YOU HOME, DIANA.
YOU'LL DO NO SUCH THING!
MASKED MAN OUT THERE!
GOT DIANA!! AFTER HIM!
TROUBLED BY DIANA'S STRANGE BEHAVIOR~ THE PHANTOM WADES INTO THEM!
COME ON, BOYS! WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR!
COPR. 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.
A FIGHT AT THE COUNTRY CLUB~OVER ME. WHEN MOTHER HEARS ABOUT THIS~ SHE'LL JUST DIE!
4-29
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED

THIS IS ONE COUNTRY CLUB DANCE THEY WON'T FORGET FOR A WHILE~~

COME ON~ THE BOYS NEED HELP!
COPR. 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.,

4-30
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED.

OH, DIANA ~ WHO IS HE? HE'S~~ MAGNIFICENT!

ANY MORE?

THEN WE CAN GO.
NO~~ NO~~
COPR. 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.,

5-1
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED

HE'S WONDER~ FUL!!
MARVELOUS!
WHAT A MAN!

PUT ~ ME DOWN ~ THIS ~ INSTANT!
5-2

THAT WAS A FINE EXHIBITION. DON'T YOU KNOW THOSE PEOPLE ARE ALL MY FRIENDS? YOU MAY HAVE HURT THEM~
I DIDN'T HIT HARD~
COPR. 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.

THAT FELLOW TRIED TO KISS YOU~
HE'S NOT A FELLOW! HE'S ONE OF MY OLDEST FRIENDS. BESIDES~ HE DIDN'T. I WOULDN'T LET HIM.
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED

ANYHOW ~ WHAT BUSINESS IS IT OF YOURS?
DIANA ~ I ~ KNOW I WAS FOOLISH ~~

DIANA ~ I LOST MY HEAD. WHEN THAT HAPPENS IN THE JUNGLE, YOU DON'T GET A SECOND CHANCE. BUT I HOPE YOU'LL GIVE ME ONE.

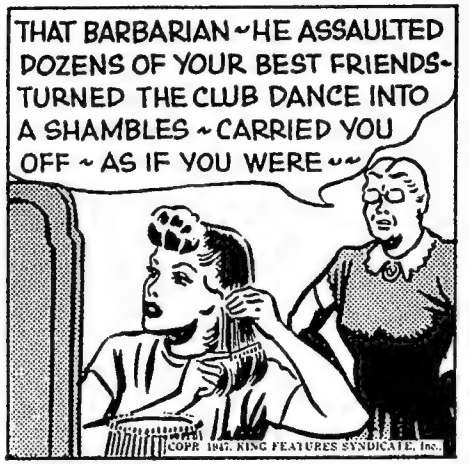
WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO?
FORGIVE ME ~~ FOR ACTING LIKE A BULL IN A CHINA SHOP.

YOU'RE FORGIVEN. HAPPY? NOW YOU CAN FORGET ALL ABOUT IT ~ AND FINISH THAT PIE IN THE KITCHEN!
COPR. 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc

WHAT DID SHE MEAN BY THAT? DEVIL, I GIVE UP. I'LL NEVER UNDERSTAND DIANA ~ OR ANY OTHER WOMAN.
5-3
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED

NO, DIANA'S QUITE ALL RIGHT. YES I KNOW ALL ABOUT THE CLUB DANCE.
THAT'S THE HUNDREDTH CALL TONIGHT!

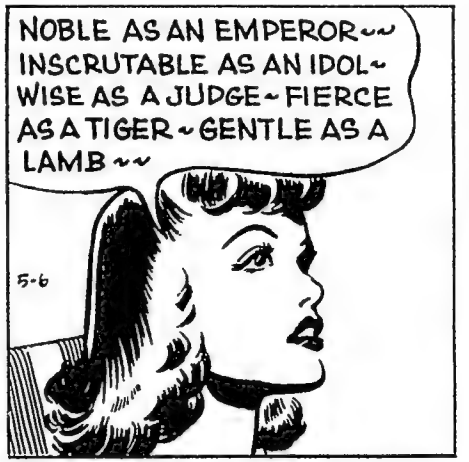
AND THE POLICE HERE TWICE~ THOUGHT DIANA WAS KIDNAPPED! BY HIM! THIS IS THE LAST STRAW, DAVE! HE MUST LEAVE THIS HOUSE!


THAT BARBARIAN ~ HE ASSAULTED DOZENS OF YOUR BEST FRIENDS~ TURNED THE CLUB DANCE INTO A SHAMBLES ~ CARRIED YOU OFF ~ AS IF YOU WERE ~~
COPR 1947 KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.

~ HIS SWEETHEART. WHICH I AM ~ ALWAYS WAS ~ ALWAYS WILL BE! OH, MAMA ~ YOU SHOULD HAVE SEEN HIM! HE WAS ~ WONDERFUL!
5-5
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED

I MADE SUCH A FOOL OF MYSELF, DEVIL. I'M ASHAMED TO SEE DIANA IN THE DAYLIGHT.
COPR 1947 KING FEATURES SYNDICATE Inc.

QUITE A RUCKUS AT THE CLUB DANCE
IT WAS A LULU. OH, UNCLE DAVE ~ I'VE SEEN THE PHANTOM IN A HUNDRED SITUATIONS BEFORE ~
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED


NOBLE AS AN EMPEROR ~~ INSCRUTABLE AS AN IDOL ~ WISE AS A JUDGE ~ FIERCE AS A TIGER ~ GENTLE AS A LAMB ~~
5-6

BUT LAST NIGHT ~ HE WAS JUST A PLAIN MAN ~ JEALOUS AND IN LOVE ~ AND I'VE NEVER LOVED HIM SO MUCH IN MY LIFE!

DAVE ~ I DON'T UNDERSTAND DIANA ANY MORE.
DON'T YOU?
I LOVE HER. I THOUGHT SHE LOVED ME. BUT SHE'S BEEN ACTING SO STRANGELY LATELY. I CAN'T EVEN TALK TO HER.
5-7
COPR 1946, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE Inc.
MAYBE YOU DON'T SAY THE RIGHT THINGS.
HOW DO YOU MEAN?
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED
GIRLS IN LOVE USUALLY LIKE TO GET MARRIED.
OH. OH!
DON'T YOU LIKE THE IDEA OF MARRYING DIANA?
OF COURSE ~~ I'VE NEVER LOVED ANYONE ELSE, DAVE.
COPR 1946, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE Inc.
I'VE OFTEN THOUGHT OF IT. BUT I LEAD A HARD LIFE. MY HOME'S IN A JUNGLE ~~ I'M CONSTANTLY EXPOSED TO DANGER ~ I DON'T MIND IT ~ I LIKE IT ~~
5-8
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED
BUT DIANA ~ SHE'S A MODERN GIRL ~ USED TO COMFORT AND CIVILIZATION. YOU KNOW MY STORY. I'M THE GHOST WHO WALKS. IT'S A STRANGE LIFE ~~
~ NOT FOR A GIRL LIKE DIANA.
SHE SEEMS TO THINK SO. WHY DON'T YOU ASK HER?

MARRY DIANA? IT'D BE WONDERFUL ~ TO HAVE A WIFE ~ CHILDREN ~ WOULDN'T IT, DEVIL?

THERE'S ALWAYS BEEN A PHANTOM. THE LINE MUST GO ON. BUT IT'S SUCH A TOUGH LIFE FOR A WOMAN ~ LIVING IN THE DEEP WOODS ~ NEVER SEEING HER PEOPLE ~~

WONDER IF DAD THOUGHT ABOUT THAT BEFORE HE PROPOSED TO MOTHER. BET HE DID. AND DIANA'S SO MUCH LIKE ~ SHE WAS ~~
COPR. 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.

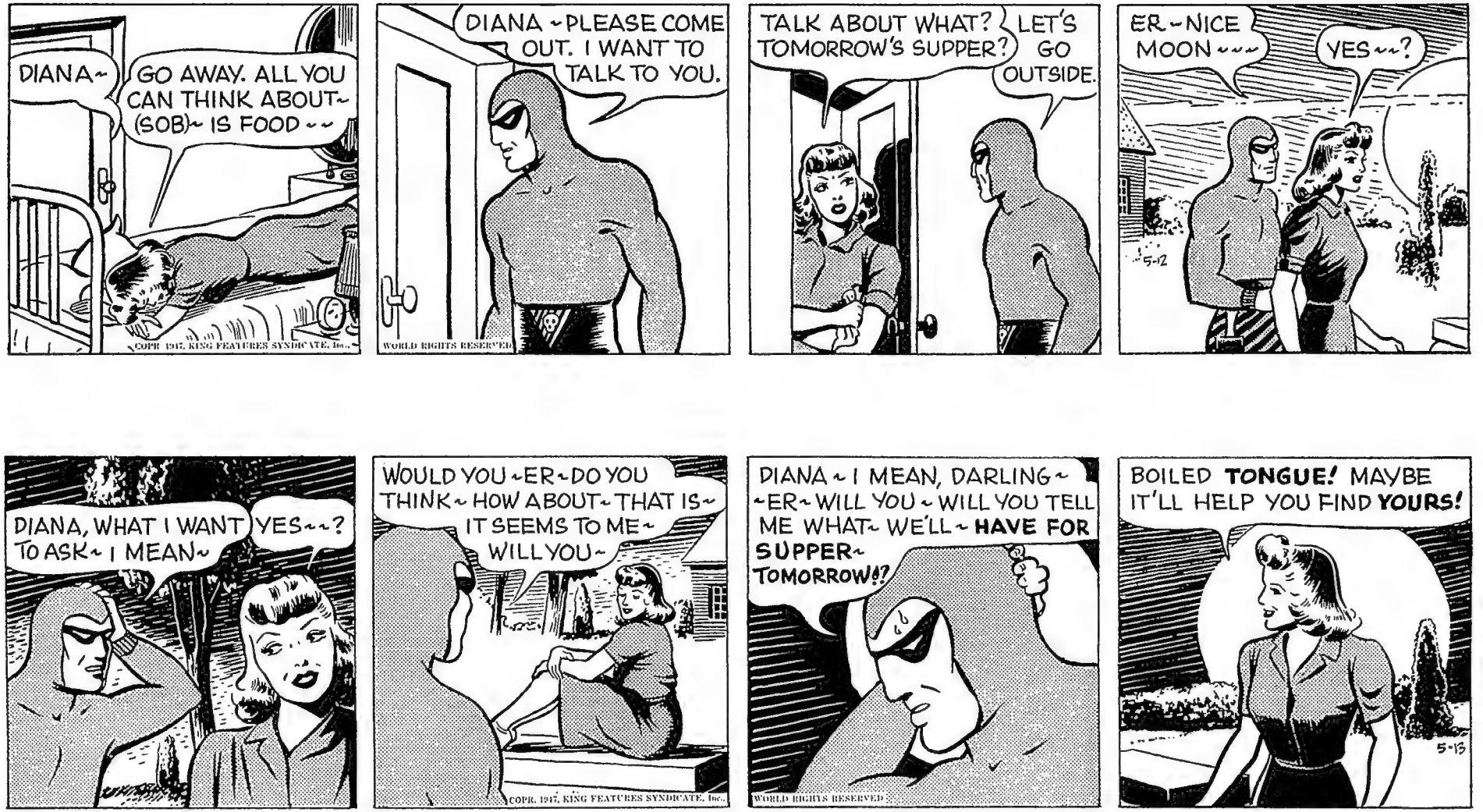
WOULDN'T HURT TO ASK.
BUT MOTHER LOVED THE DEEP WOODS! SHE LOVED THE HARD LIFE OF THE PHANTOM! MAYBE DIANA WILL, TOO!
5-9
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED.

DAVE ~ I'M GOING TO ASK DIANA ~ TO MARRY ME!
GOOD BOY!

BUT ~ HOW'LL I DO IT? I MEAN ~ WHAT'LL I SAY ~~?
HOW SHOULD I KNOW. I'M A BACHELOR. JUST ASK HER.

BUT I DON'T KNOW HOW TO GO ABOUT IT ~~
YOU'LL THINK OF SOMETHING. THEY ALWAYS DO. GO AHEAD.
5-10
COPR. 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.

(I'D RATHER FACE A TIGER BAREHANDED THAN GO THRU THIS)
DIANA ~~ DIANA ~~
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED.


DIANA~
GO AWAY. ALL YOU CAN THINK ABOUT~ (SOB)~ IS FOOD ~~
COPR. 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.
DIANA ~PLEASE COME OUT. I WANT TO TALK TO YOU.
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED
TALK ABOUT WHAT? TOMORROW'S SUPPER?
LET'S GO OUTSIDE.
ER~NICE MOON ~~~
YES~~?
5-12
DIANA, WHAT I WANT TO ASK~ I MEAN~
YES~~?
WOULD YOU~ER~DO YOU THINK~ HOW ABOUT~ THAT IS~ IT SEEMS TO ME~ WILL YOU~
COPR. 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.
DIANA~ I MEAN, DARLING~ ~ER~WILL YOU~ WILL YOU TELL ME WHAT~ WE'LL~ HAVE FOR SUPPER~ TOMORROW!?
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED
BOILED TONGUE! MAYBE IT'LL HELP YOU FIND YOURS!
5-13

HOW'D YOU DO WITH DIANA?
TERRIBLE, DAVE. I FELL APART~~ LIKE THE ONE-HORSE SHAY~~
IT SOUNDS EASY. "WILL YOU MARRY ME?" BUT I JUST **COULDN'T** GET THE WORDS OUT! NOT IF MY LIFE DEPENDED ON IT!
5-14
COPR. 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.
I KNOW. THAT'S WHY I'M STILL A BACHELOR. WHY DON'T YOU BUY A RING? THEN JUST SLIP IT ON HER FINGER~~
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED
YOU WON'T HAVE TO SAY A WORD!
WONDERFUL IDEA! DAVE, YOU'RE MY FRIEND FOR LIFE!
IT'S ONLY NOON. DON'T TELL ME **HE** IS ACTUALLY UP!
HE WENT DOWN-TOWN TO BUY SOMETHING, MAMA.
WHAT? A BATTLE-AXE?
HE DIDN'T SAY. HE WAS MOST MYSTERIOUS.
I WANT TO BUY A DIAMOND ENGAGEMENT RING
YES, SIR. HOW LARGE A DIAMOND DO YOU HAVE IN MIND?
COPR. 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.
OH ~~ ABOUT SO BIG.
5-15
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED

YOUR RING WILL BE READY IN A FEW MINUTES, SIR.
I'LL WAIT.
COPR 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.

YES, MISS ~UH~
I'VE SOME DIAMONDS I'D LIKE TO SELL. YOU BUY THEM HERE, DON'T YOU?
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED

YES, BUT OUR APPRAISER IS OUT TO LUNCH JUST NOW ~ IF YOU CARE TO WAIT~~
NO, I'LL BE BACK LATER.

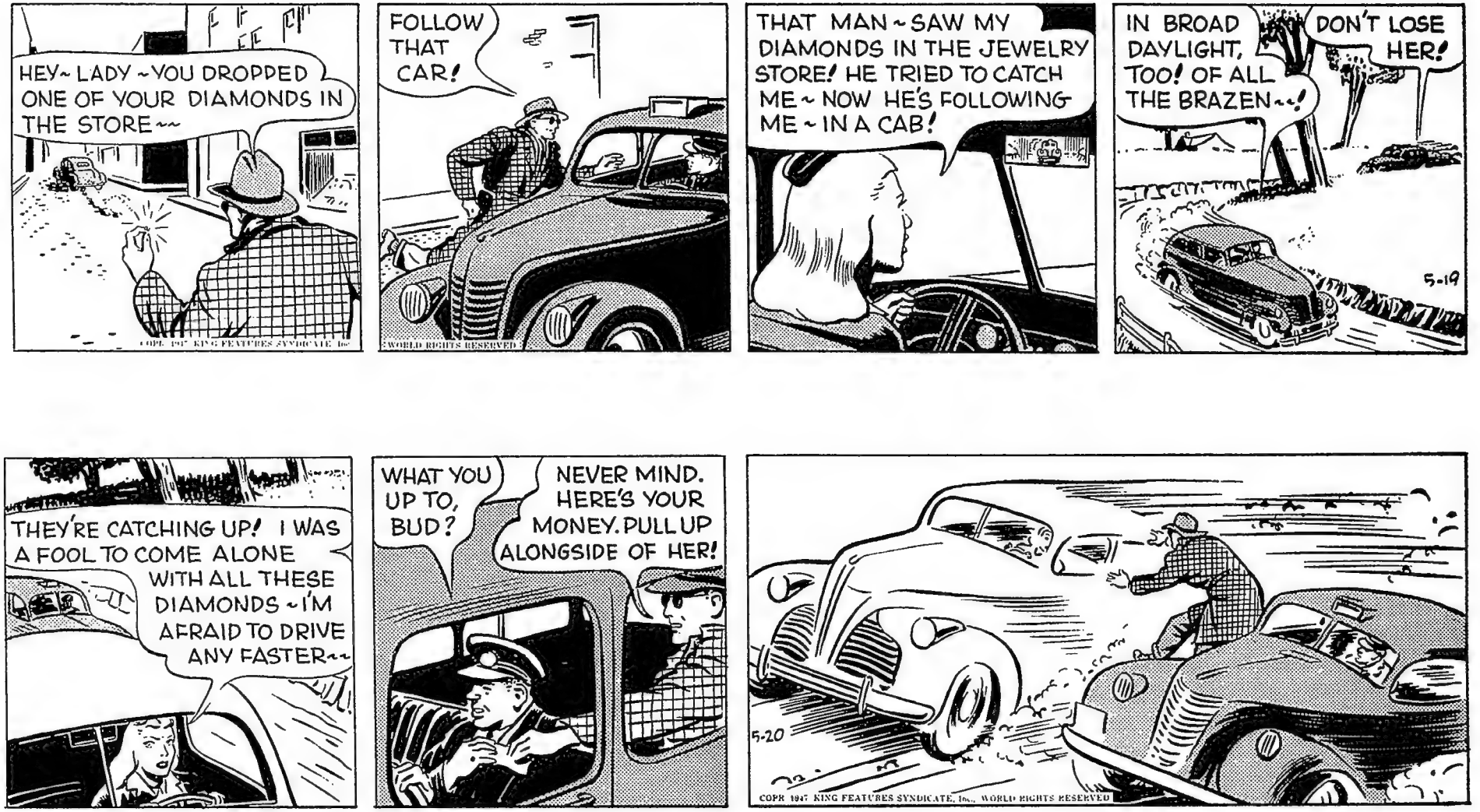
MISS, IF I WERE YOU, I WOULDN'T CARRY SUCH A FORTUNE ~ IT'S DANGEROUS~~
I CAN TAKE CARE OF MYSELF, THANK YOU.
5-16

THAT GIRL DROPPED THIS DIAMOND ~~!

HEY ~ LADY~ (THERE SHE IS) ~YOU DROPPED THIS~~
COPR 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.

THAT MAN ~ WAS IN THE JEWELRY STORE~~! HE SAW MY DIAMONDS! HE'S AFTER THEM!
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED

HEY~~ WAIT A MINUTE!
5-17


HEY~ LADY ~YOU DROPPED ONE OF YOUR DIAMONDS IN THE STORE~~
FOLLOW THAT CAR!
THAT MAN ~ SAW MY DIAMONDS IN THE JEWELRY STORE! HE TRIED TO CATCH ME ~ NOW HE'S FOLLOWING ME ~ IN A CAB!
IN BROAD DAYLIGHT, TOO! OF ALL THE BRAZEN~~!
DON'T LOSE HER!
5-19
THEY'RE CATCHING UP! I WAS A FOOL TO COME ALONE WITH ALL THESE DIAMONDS ~ I'M AFRAID TO DRIVE ANY FASTER~~
WHAT YOU UP TO, BUD?
NEVER MIND. HERE'S YOUR MONEY. PULL UP ALONGSIDE OF HER!
5-20
COPR 1947 KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc., WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED

STOP THE CAR~ PULL OVER TO THE SIDE
NO~~ NO~I WON'T~~
I SAID~ STOP THE CAR!
COPR. 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.
SORRY TO PULL THE GUN, BUT IT WAS THE ONLY WAY I COULD STOP YOU.
5-21
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED
YOU DROPPED THIS DIAMOND. I'VE HAD A TOUGH TIME GETTING IT BACK TO YOU.
OHHH
I THOUGHT YOU WERE TRYING TO STEAL MY DIAMONDS~~ AND ALL THE TIME~ YOU WERE TRYING TO RETURN ONE I DROPPED!
THE LEAST I CAN DO IS DRIVE YOU HOME.
TOO LATE TO GO BACK TO THE JEWELRY STORE. OKAY~ THANKS.
WHERE DID HE GO, UNCLE DAVE?
I PROMISED NOT TO TELL, DIANA. BUT~~ HE WENT SHOPPING~~
COPR. 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.
~~SOMETHING ABOUT A RING, I THINK.
AT LAST!
5-22
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED

OH, DEVIL~I'M SO HAPPY HE'S GETTING TO THE POINT AT LAST~~ BUYING A RING!

HE'S THE MOST WONDERFUL MAN IN THE WORLD~ I LOVE HIM MORE THAN I EVER THOUGHT I COULD LOVE ANYBODY!

THIS IS FAR ENOUGH, THANKS. I CAN WALK UP THE HILL.
I CAN NEVER THANK YOU ENOUGH FOR RETURNING MY DIAMOND~~
5-23
COPR 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.

I'M SORRY I ACTED SO FOOLISHLY~
THAT'S ALL RIGHT, MISS.
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED.

I CAN'T WAIT FOR HIM TO GET BACK~ WHAT'S THE MATTER, DEVIL?
WOOF
COPR 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.

WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED

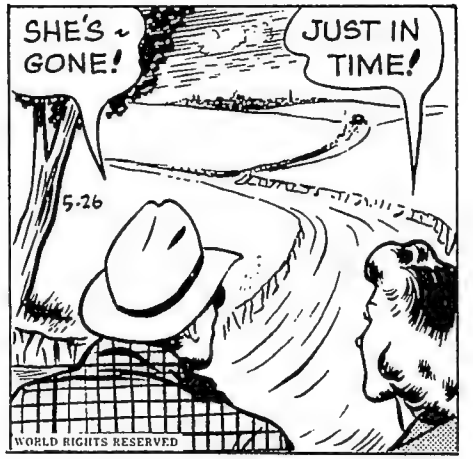
GOOD-BYE~ THANKS~
5-24

DIANA ~WAIT A MINUTE~~ LET ME EXPLAIN~~

DIANA, I CAN EXPLAIN BEING IN THE CAR WITH THAT GIRL~~
I DIDN'T ASK YOU TO EXPLAIN~~

SHE DROPPED A DIAMOND IN THE JEWELRY STORE ~~ I RAN AFTER HER TO RETURN IT ~ BUT SHE THOUGHT I WAS TRYING TO ROB HER.

AN INTERESTING STORY. WHAT'S HER NAME?
I DON'T KNOW. DIANA ~ DON'T YOU BELIEVE ME? COME ~~ SHE'LL TELL YOU~
COPR 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.


SHE'S ~ GONE!
JUST IN TIME!
5-26
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED

WHY INVENT SUCH A SILLY STORY? IT'S YOUR OWN AFFAIR IF YOU TAKE A RIDE WITH A GIRL!

DON'T BLAME DIANA. GIRLS IN LOVE GET JEALOUS AT THE DROP OF A HAT.
BUT, DAVE ~~ I TOLD HER THE WHOLE STORY~
5-27
COPR 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.

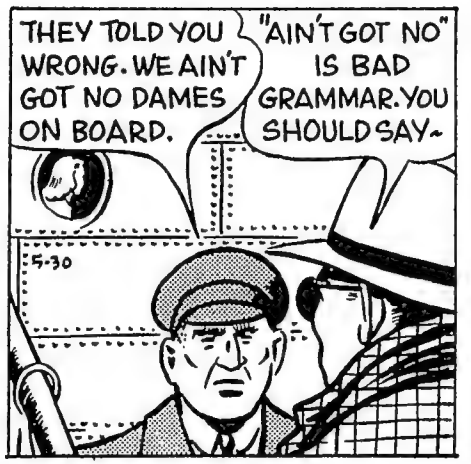
IT IS A HARD STORY TO BELIEVE~ HEY~ TAKE IT EASY! I'M ON YOUR SIDE! I BELIEVE YOU! BUT DIANA DOESN'T.
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED.

AND THE MORE YOU TALK, THE LESS SHE'LL BELIEVE. YOU'D BETTER FIND THAT GIRL~ AND LET HER TELL DIANA.
HOW? I DON'T KNOW HER NAME ~ OR WHERE SHE IS!

I'VE BEEN KEEPING YOUR RING FOR YOU, SIR.
NEVER MIND THAT NOW. REMEMBER THE GIRL WHO DROPPED THE DIAMOND HERE YESTERDAY?
COULD YOU GIVE ME HER NAME AND ADDRESS?
HMM - I GUESS SO. SHE RETURNED LATER, AND WE BOUGHT HER DIAMONDS. PAID A FORTUNE. - HERE IT IS - MISS KERRY, HOTEL BARR-
5-28
MISS KERRY? SHE CHECKED OUT AN HOUR AGO - SAILING, I BELIEVE - S.S. "VESTA".
COPR 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.
HEY - HOLD THAT GANGPLANK!
VESTA
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED.
I'VE GOT TO SEE MISS KERRY BEFORE THIS YACHT SAILS.
WHO? WAIT HERE A MINUTE.
COPR. 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.
GET RID OF HIM.
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED.
NOBODY BY THAT NAME ON BOARD.
YEAH?
5-29
YOU HEARD ME. TAKE OFF!
WHAT IS THIS? I'M NOT LOOKING FOR TROUBLE. I'VE JUST GOT TO SEE MISS KERRY.

I ONLY WANT MISS KERRY TO EXPLAIN SOMETHING TO MY GIRL~ IT'S IMPORTANT.
Y'RE BREAKIN' MY HEART.
COPR. 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.

LOOK, CHUM. I TOLD YOU WE NEVER HEARD OF MISS KERRY ON THIS TUB. SO SCRAM.
BUT THEY TOLD ME AT THE HOTEL THAT SHE WAS ON THIS YACHT~
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED.


THEY TOLD YOU WRONG. WE AIN'T GOT NO DAMES ON BOARD.
"AIN'T GOT NO" IS BAD GRAMMAR. YOU SHOULD SAY~
5-30

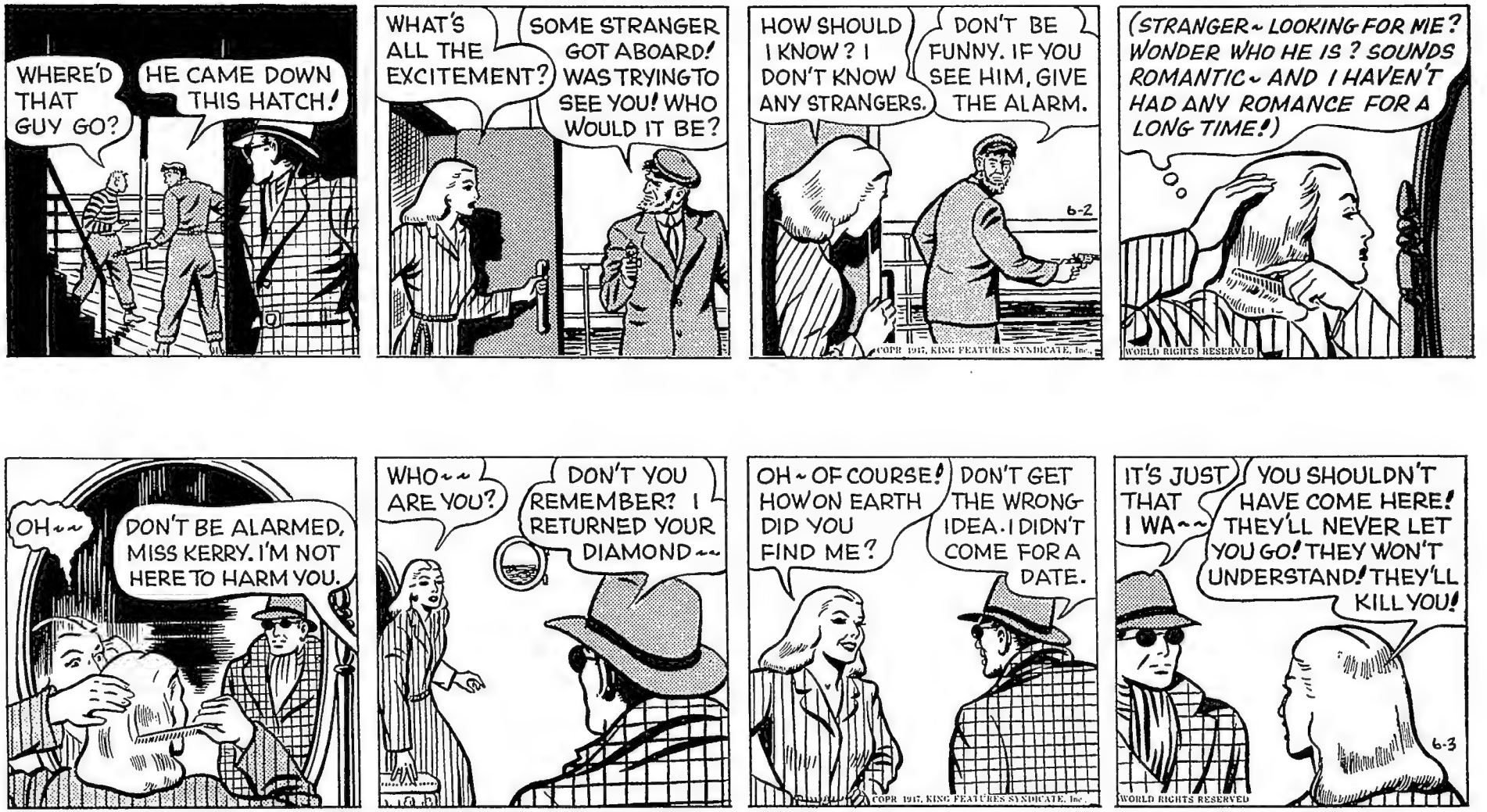
"WE HAVEN'T ANY"~ AND YOU'D STILL BE LYING! GANGWAY!

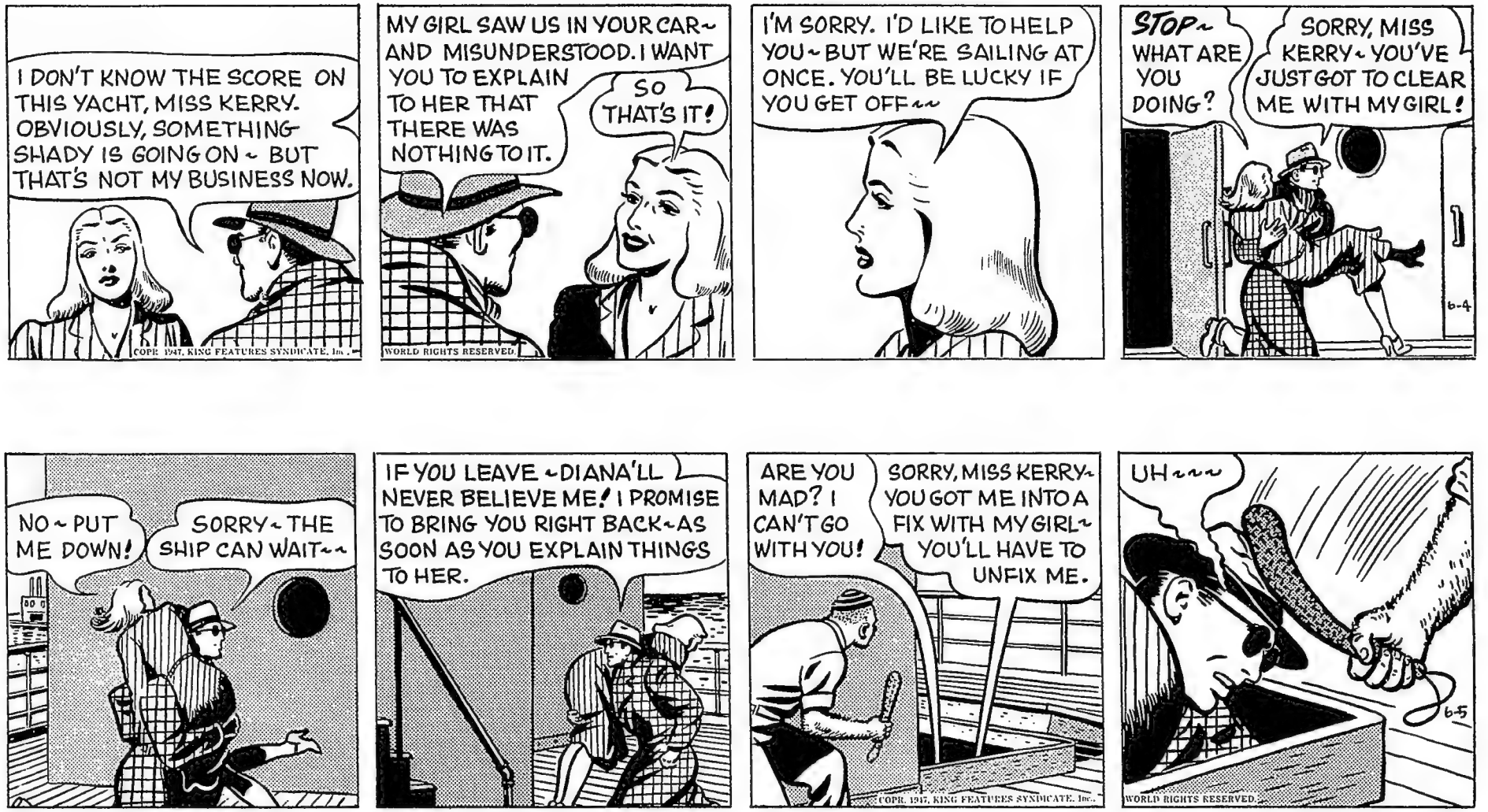
MISS KERRY EVIDENTLY DOESN'T WANT VISITORS!

BUT MY BUSINESS IS URGENT! SHE'S GOT TO EXPLAIN THINGS TO MY GIRL!

MISS KERRY! MISS KERRY!
COPR 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.

DON'T LET THAT MAN OFF THIS SHIP! IF YOU HAVE TO, KILL HIM!
5-31
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED.


WHERE'D THAT GUY GO?
HE CAME DOWN THIS HATCH!
WHAT'S ALL THE EXCITEMENT?
SOME STRANGER GOT ABOARD! WAS TRYING TO SEE YOU! WHO WOULD IT BE?
HOW SHOULD I KNOW? I DON'T KNOW ANY STRANGERS.
DON'T BE FUNNY. IF YOU SEE HIM, GIVE THE ALARM.
6-2
COPR 1937, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.
(STRANGER~ LOOKING FOR ME? WONDER WHO HE IS? SOUNDS ROMANTIC~ AND I HAVEN'T HAD ANY ROMANCE FOR A LONG TIME!)
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED
OH~~
DON'T BE ALARMED, MISS KERRY. I'M NOT HERE TO HARM YOU.
WHO~~ ARE YOU?
DON'T YOU REMEMBER? I RETURNED YOUR DIAMOND~~
OH~ OF COURSE! HOW ON EARTH DID YOU FIND ME?
DON'T GET THE WRONG IDEA. I DIDN'T COME FOR A DATE.
COPR 1937, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.
IT'S JUST THAT I WA~~
YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE COME HERE! THEY'LL NEVER LET YOU GO! THEY WON'T UNDERSTAND! THEY'LL KILL YOU!
6-3
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED


I DON'T KNOW THE SCORE ON THIS YACHT, MISS KERRY. OBVIOUSLY, SOMETHING SHADY IS GOING ON ~ BUT THAT'S NOT MY BUSINESS NOW.
COPR. 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.
MY GIRL SAW US IN YOUR CAR~ AND MISUNDERSTOOD. I WANT YOU TO EXPLAIN TO HER THAT THERE WAS NOTHING TO IT.
SO THAT'S IT!
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED.
I'M SORRY. I'D LIKE TO HELP YOU ~ BUT WE'RE SAILING AT ONCE. YOU'LL BE LUCKY IF YOU GET OFF~~
STOP~ WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
SORRY, MISS KERRY~ YOU'VE JUST GOT TO CLEAR ME WITH MY GIRL!
6-4
NO ~ PUT ME DOWN!
SORRY~ THE SHIP CAN WAIT~~
IF YOU LEAVE ~DIANA'LL NEVER BELIEVE ME! I PROMISE TO BRING YOU RIGHT BACK~AS SOON AS YOU EXPLAIN THINGS TO HER.
ARE YOU MAD? I CAN'T GO WITH YOU!
SORRY, MISS KERRY~ YOU GOT ME INTO A FIX WITH MY GIRL~ YOU'LL HAVE TO UNFIX ME.
COPR. 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.
UH~~~
6-5
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED.

UNCLE DAVE~ MAYBE HIS STORY WAS TRUE~ ABOUT THE GIRL.
TIME YOU GOT SENSIBLE, DIANA.

YOU SHOULD KNOW BY NOW THAT THE PHANTOM'S CLEVER ~ BUT NOT ABOUT WOMEN. AND HE'S NOT THE FLIRTATIOUS TYPE.

I'LL BET ANYTHING HE'S NEVER EVEN LOOKED AT ANY OTHER WOMAN
I KNOW I WAS A FOOL~~
COPR 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.

IT WAS JUST SO UNEXPECTED~ SEEING HIM WITH HER IN THAT CAR~ I GUESS I LOST MY HEAD ~ I LOVE HIM SO MUCH~ THE POOR DARLING~~
6-6
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED.

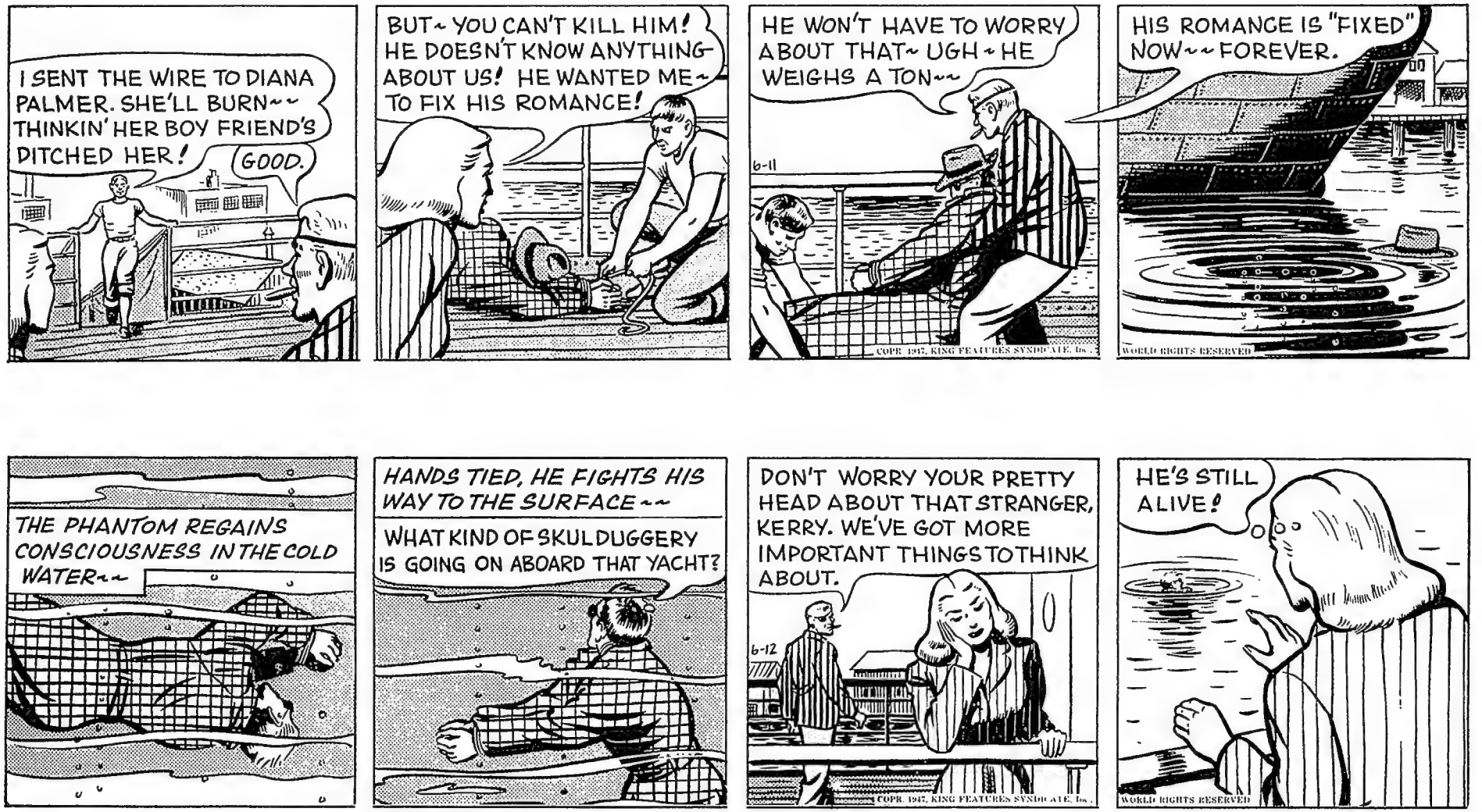
BUT WHERE DID HE GO, UNCLE DAVE?
TO TRY AND FIND THAT GIRL ~~SO SHE COULD EXPLAIN TO YOU THAT THERE WAS NOTHING BETWEEN THEM.

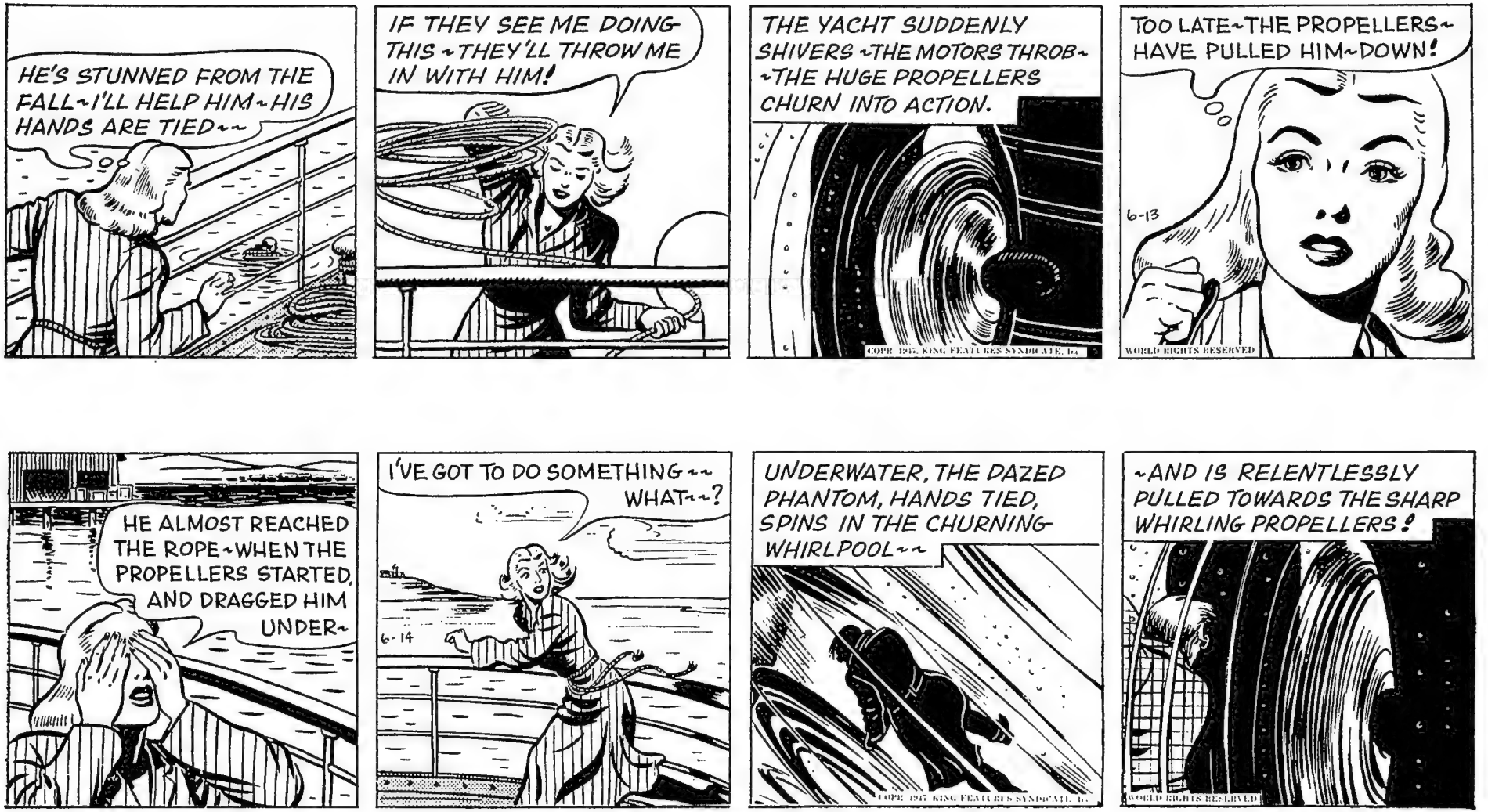
OH, HOW ABSURD.
NOW DO YOU MIND IF I FINISH MY PAPER? I'VE HAD ENOUGH LOVE THIS AFTERNOON.
COPR 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.

WHERE CAN HE BE? SHE WAS AWFULLY PRETTY~ LOOKED LIKE A LITTLE FLIRT~ SHE'S PROBABLY TELLING HIM I DON'T UNDER~ STAND HIM!
6-7
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED.

WHAT MYSTERY HAS THE PHANTOM STUMBLED INTO?
SPEAK FAST, KERRY! WHO IS THIS MAN?

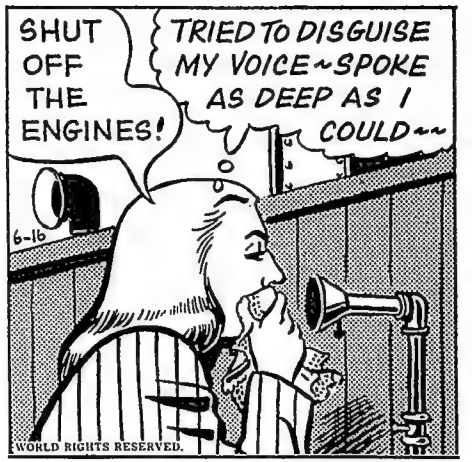
WHAT'S THIS MAN DOING HERE, KERRY? WHO IS HE?
IT'S ~ SO SILLY, PATCH. I TOLD YOU HOW I LOST THAT DIAMOND. HE RETURNED IT. HIS GIRL SAW HIM WITH ME~~
I RECALL. AND?
~AND GOT JEALOUS. HE WANTED ME TO EXPLAIN TO HER. I DON'T EVEN KNOW HIS NAME ~ POOR ROMEO.
b-9
COPR. 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.
NO IDENTIFICATION ON HIM, SIR.
THAT RING!
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED
WHAT ABOUT THE RING? IT HAS A SKULL ON IT.
NOTHING. FOR A MOMENT I THOUGHT~
IT DOESN'T MATTER WHO HE IS. WE CAN'T ALLOW HIM TO REPORT US. HAS HE ANY PEOPLE WHO'D SEARCH FOR HIM?
HE WAS STAYING WITH DIANA PALMER'S FAMILY. TALESEND ROAD. HE TOLD ME, WHEN I DROVE HIM HOME~~
COPR 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.
GOOD. SEND A WIRE TO DIANA PALMER. "TAKING CRUISE. WILL NOT RETURN". NO NAME NEEDED. SHE'LL KNOW IT'S FROM HER ROMEO.
b-10
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED


I SENT THE WIRE TO DIANA PALMER. SHE'LL BURN~~ THINKIN' HER BOY FRIEND'S DITCHED HER!
GOOD.
BUT~ YOU CAN'T KILL HIM! HE DOESN'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT US! HE WANTED ME~ TO FIX HIS ROMANCE!
HE WON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT THAT~ UGH~ HE WEIGHS A TON~~
6-11
COPR. 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.
HIS ROMANCE IS "FIXED" NOW~~ FOREVER.
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED
THE PHANTOM REGAINS CONSCIOUSNESS IN THE COLD WATER~~
HANDS TIED, HE FIGHTS HIS WAY TO THE SURFACE~~
WHAT KIND OF SKULDUGGERY IS GOING ON ABOARD THAT YACHT?
DON'T WORRY YOUR PRETTY HEAD ABOUT THAT STRANGER, KERRY. WE'VE GOT MORE IMPORTANT THINGS TO THINK ABOUT.
6-12
COPR. 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.
HE'S STILL ALIVE!
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED

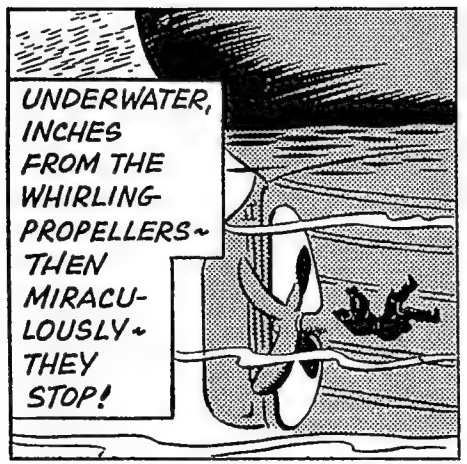

HE'S STUNNED FROM THE FALL~I'LL HELP HIM~HIS HANDS ARE TIED~~
IF THEY SEE ME DOING THIS ~THEY'LL THROW ME IN WITH HIM!
THE YACHT SUDDENLY SHIVERS ~THE MOTORS THROB~ ~THE HUGE PROPELLERS CHURN INTO ACTION.
COPR 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.
TOO LATE~THE PROPELLERS~ HAVE PULLED HIM~DOWN!
6-13
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED
HE ALMOST REACHED THE ROPE~WHEN THE PROPELLERS STARTED, AND DRAGGED HIM UNDER~
I'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING~~ WHAT~~?
6-14
UNDERWATER, THE DAZED PHANTOM, HANDS TIED, SPINS IN THE CHURNING WHIRLPOOL~~
COPR 1947 KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.
~AND IS RELENTLESSLY PULLED TOWARDS THE SHARP WHIRLING PROPELLERS!
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED

HANDS TIED, BUT FIGHTING HARD, THE PHANTOM IS DRAGGED UNDERWATER TOWARDS THE CHURNING PROPELLERS~~

THANK GOODNESS ~ NO ONE ON THE BRIDGE! IF THEY CATCH ME~~
COPR. 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.


SHUT OFF THE ENGINES!
TRIED TO DISGUISE MY VOICE ~ SPOKE AS DEEP AS I COULD~~
6-16
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED.

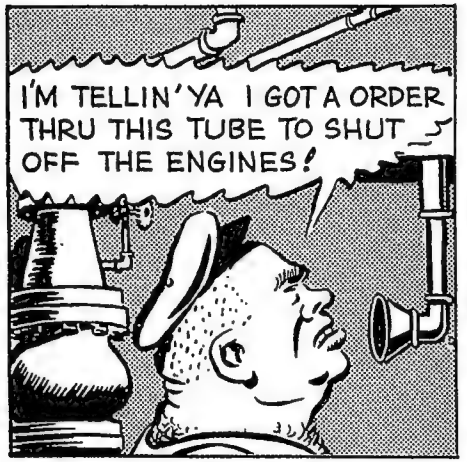
WHAT'S A IDEA? I THOUGHT THEY WAS READY TO GO!


UNDERWATER, INCHES FROM THE WHIRLING PROPELLERS ~ THEN MIRACULOUSLY ~ THEY STOP!

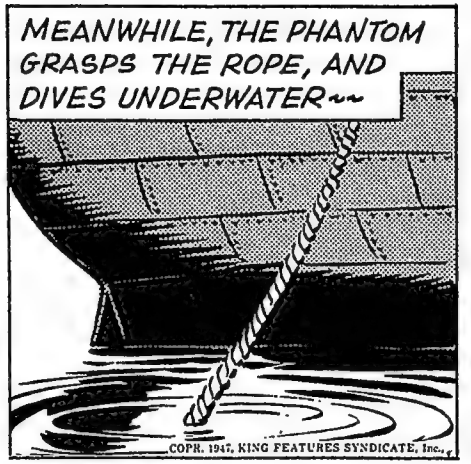
QUICKLY, HE SLASHES HIS WRIST ROPES AGAINST THE SHARP EDGE OF THE PROPELLER~~
GOT TO FREE MY HANDS!

AHH ~ AIR ~ ANOTHER SECOND ~ AND I'D HAVE BEEN A GONER~
COPR. 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.

ENGINE ROOM! WHY DID YOU STOP THE ENGINES? WE'RE READY TO GO! ORDER FROM ME? YOU HAD NO SUCH THING!
6-17
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED.

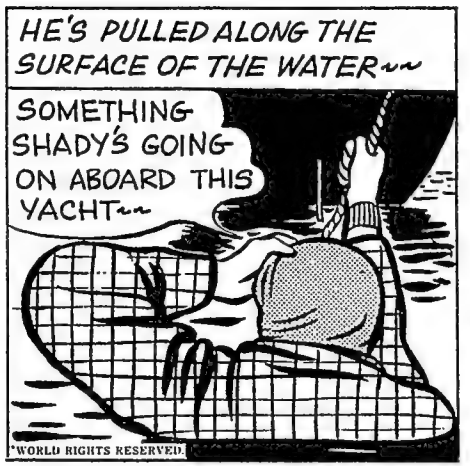

I'M TELLIN'YA I GOT A ORDER THRU THIS TUBE TO SHUT OFF THE ENGINES!

YOU WERE HEARING THINGS! NOBODY GAVE YOU THE ORDER FROM HERE! WELL~WARM 'EM UP! WE'RE READY TO LEAVE!
6-18


MEANWHILE, THE PHANTOM GRASPS THE ROPE, AND DIVES UNDERWATER~~
COPR. 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.,

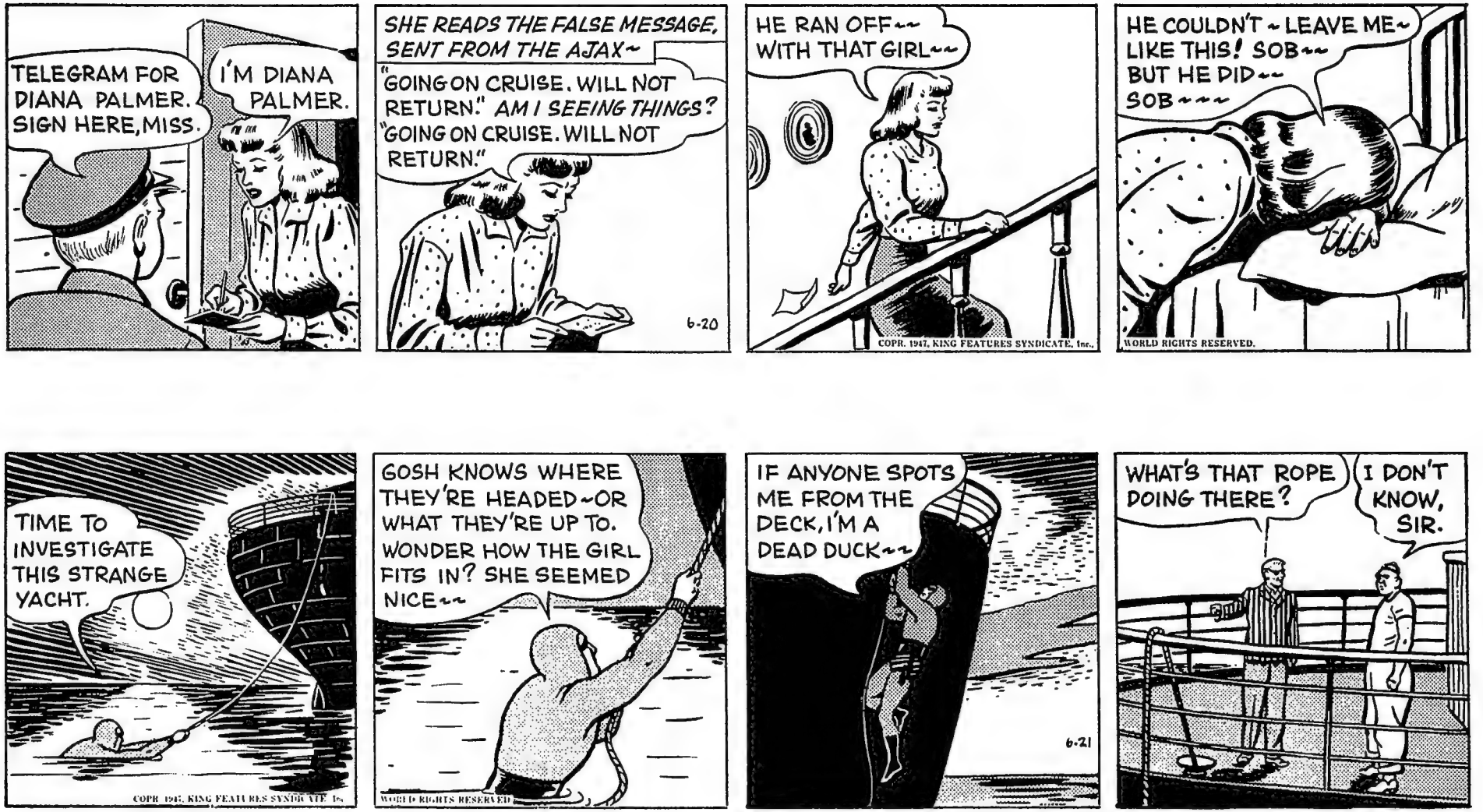
THERE GO THE PROPELLERS AGAIN. NO SIGN OF HIM~I TRIED TO HELP~I GUESS~THE PROPS ~GOT HIM~~
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED.

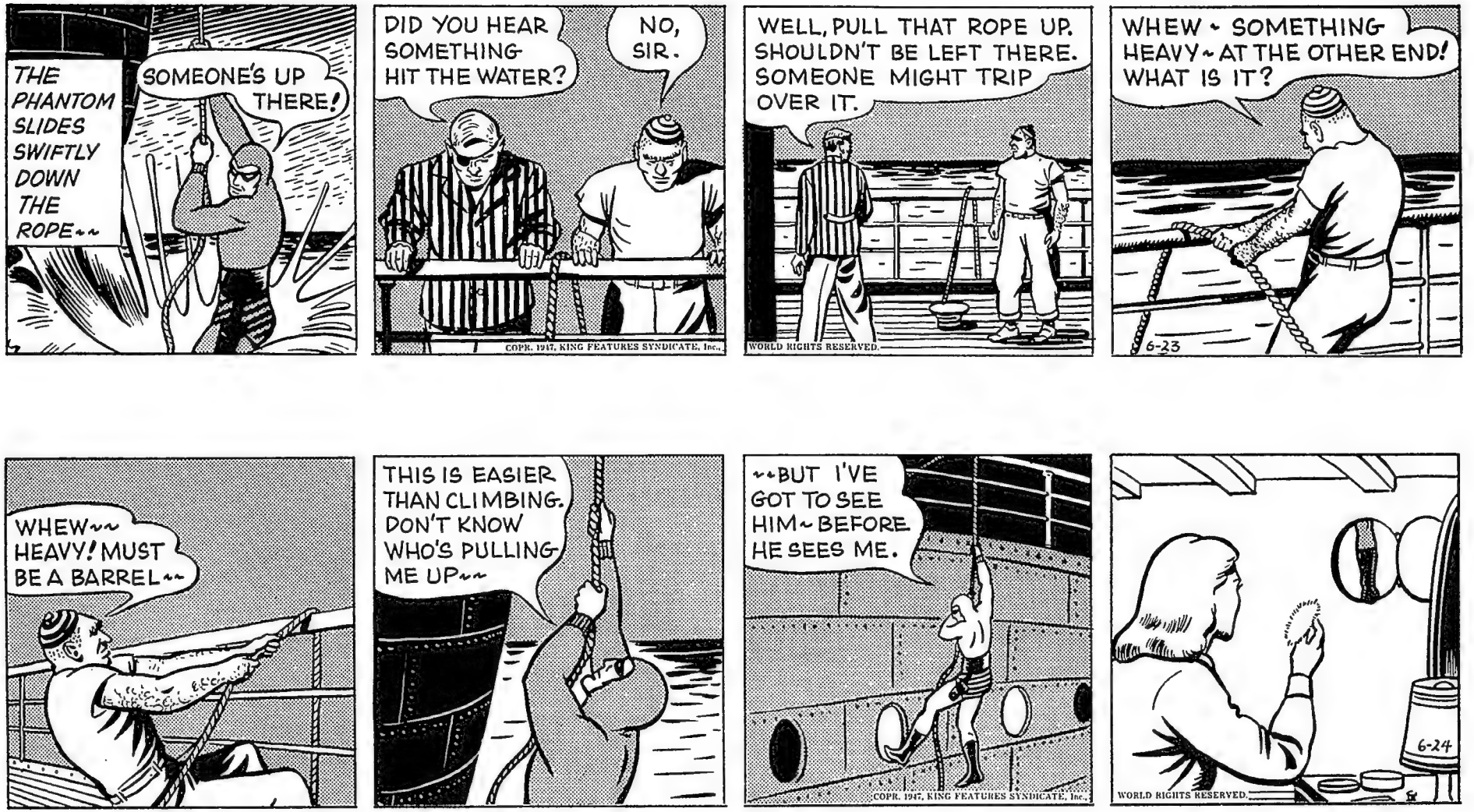
UNDERWATER~ NEAR THE YACHT'S KEEL~~
MOVING. TIME FOR ME TO GO UP FOR AIR AGAIN.
COPR. 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.,

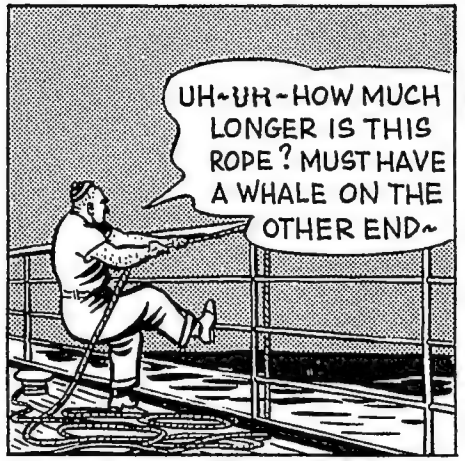

HE'S PULLED ALONG THE SURFACE OF THE WATER~~
SOMETHING SHADY'S GOING ON ABOARD THIS YACHT~~
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED.

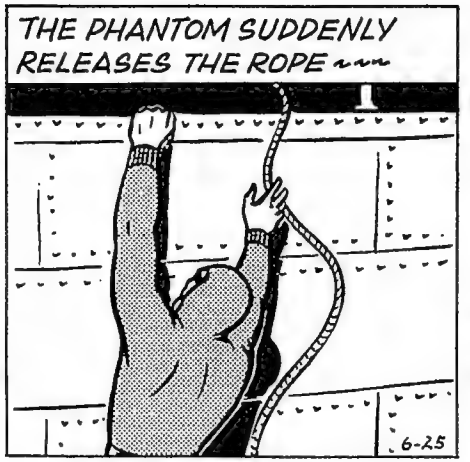
HE GRADUALLY SLIPS OFF HIS OUTER CLOTHING~~
DIANA'LL PROBABLY WONDER WHAT HAPPENED TO ME~BUT I'M GOING TO STICK WITH THIS TUB~~

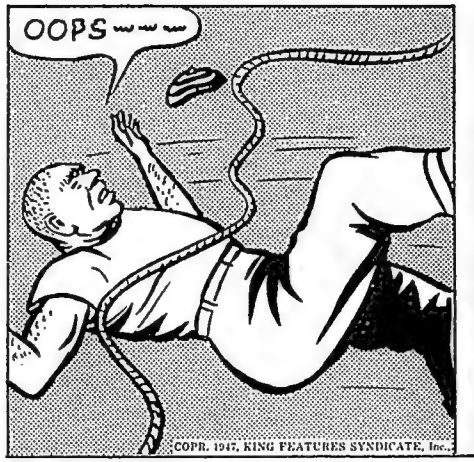
THEY DIDN'T KNOW ME FROM ADAM~BUT TRIED TO KILL ME, BECAUSE I GOT ABOARD. SOMETHING CROOKED IS COOKING!
6-19


TELEGRAM FOR DIANA PALMER. SIGN HERE, MISS.
I'M DIANA PALMER.
SHE READS THE FALSE MESSAGE, SENT FROM THE AJAX~
"GOING ON CRUISE. WILL NOT RETURN." AM I SEEING THINGS? "GOING ON CRUISE. WILL NOT RETURN."
6-20
HE RAN OFF~~ WITH THAT GIRL~~
COPR. 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.
HE COULDN'T ~ LEAVE ME~ LIKE THIS! SOB~~ BUT HE DID~~ SOB~~~
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED.
TIME TO INVESTIGATE THIS STRANGE YACHT.
GOSH KNOWS WHERE THEY'RE HEADED ~ OR WHAT THEY'RE UP TO. WONDER HOW THE GIRL FITS IN? SHE SEEMED NICE~~
IF ANYONE SPOTS ME FROM THE DECK, I'M A DEAD DUCK~~
6-21
WHAT'S THAT ROPE DOING THERE?
I DON'T KNOW, SIR.

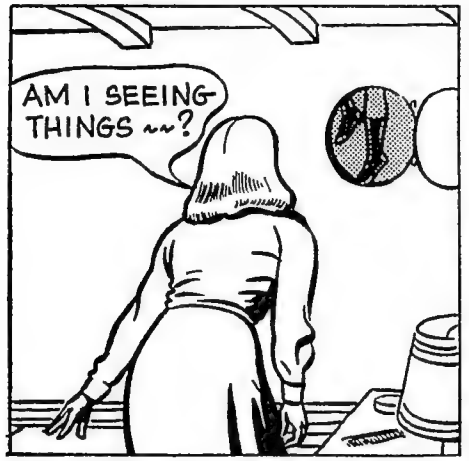

THE PHANTOM SLIDES SWIFTLY DOWN THE ROPE~~
SOMEONE'S UP THERE!
DID YOU HEAR SOMETHING HIT THE WATER?
NO, SIR.
COPR. 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.,
WELL, PULL THAT ROPE UP. SHOULDN'T BE LEFT THERE. SOMEONE MIGHT TRIP OVER IT.
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED.
WHEW ~ SOMETHING HEAVY ~ AT THE OTHER END! WHAT IS IT?
6-23
WHEW~~ HEAVY! MUST BE A BARREL~~
THIS IS EASIER THAN CLIMBING. DON'T KNOW WHO'S PULLING ME UP~~
~~BUT I'VE GOT TO SEE HIM ~ BEFORE HE SEES ME.
COPR. 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.,
6-24
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED.


UH-UH-HOW MUCH LONGER IS THIS ROPE? MUST HAVE A WHALE ON THE OTHER END~

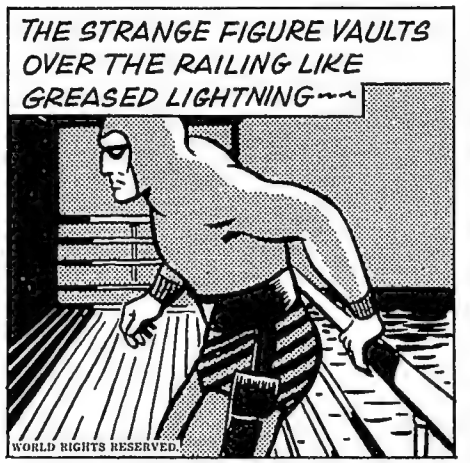

THE PHANTOM SUDDENLY RELEASES THE ROPE~~~
6-25


OOPS~~~~
COPR. 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.,

WHATEVER I WAS HAULING UP~~IT GOT AWAY ~ NOW~~ I'LL NEVER KNOW~~
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED.


AM I SEEING THINGS~~?

FOR A SPLIT SECOND THE SAILOR SEES HIS STRANGE "CATCH"
WHAT THE~~
COPR. 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.,

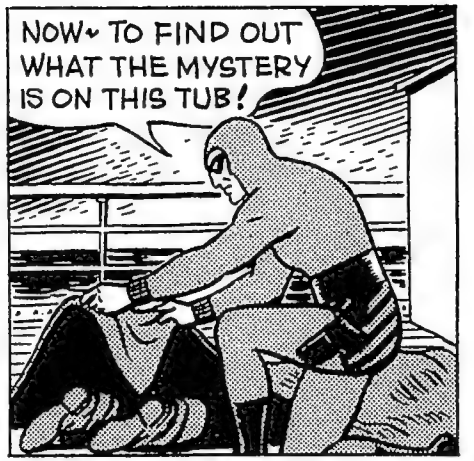

THE STRANGE FIGURE VAULTS OVER THE RAILING LIKE GREASED LIGHTNING~~
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED.

BEFORE HE CAN UTTER A WARNING CRY, IRON HANDS ARE AT HIS THROAT~~
6-26

WAS I DREAMING~ OR DID I SEE FEET IN THAT PORTHOLE~ FOR JUST A SECOND?
6-27
COPR. 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.,

I MUST HAVE BEEN DREAMING~~
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED.

BUT ON THE DECK ABOVE, SOMEONE IS REALLY GOING TO DREAMLAND!

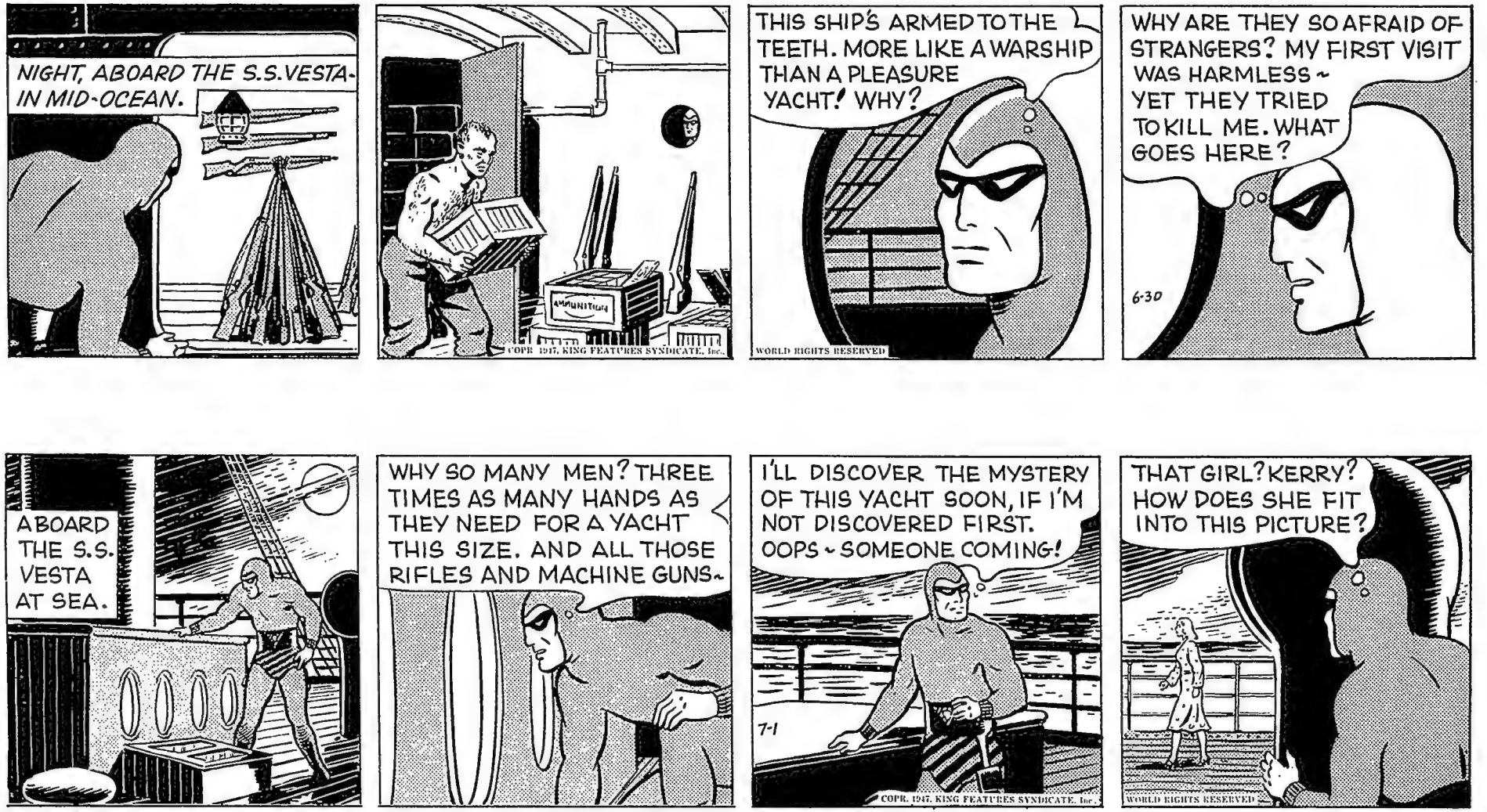

NOW~ TO FIND OUT WHAT THE MYSTERY IS ON THIS TUB!

DIANA~ WHY ARE YOU CRYING? WHAT'S HAPPENED? PLEASE UNLOCK THE DOOR.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT~~
I FOUND THIS TELEGRAM ON THE STAIRS, WHERE SHE DROPPED IT. IT'LL EXPLAIN.
6-28

"GOING ON CRUISE. WILL NOT RETURN." ~BUT WHO SENT IT? THERE'S NO NAME~~
FROM THE PHANTOM, OBVIOUSLY~~
COPR. 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.,

AFTER ALL HIS TALK ABOUT GETTING A RING~AND MARRIAGE~I EXPECTED IT, ALL ALONG!
IT'S A SHOCK TO ME. I CAN'T UNDERSTAND IT!
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED.


NIGHT, ABOARD THE S.S. VESTA - IN MID-OCEAN.
AMMUNITION
COPR. 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.
THIS SHIP'S ARMED TO THE TEETH. MORE LIKE A WARSHIP THAN A PLEASURE YACHT! WHY?
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED
WHY ARE THEY SO AFRAID OF STRANGERS? MY FIRST VISIT WAS HARMLESS ~ YET THEY TRIED TO KILL ME. WHAT GOES HERE?
6-30
ABOARD THE S.S. VESTA AT SEA.
WHY SO MANY MEN? THREE TIMES AS MANY HANDS AS THEY NEED FOR A YACHT THIS SIZE. AND ALL THOSE RIFLES AND MACHINE GUNS~
I'LL DISCOVER THE MYSTERY OF THIS YACHT SOON, IF I'M NOT DISCOVERED FIRST. OOPS ~ SOMEONE COMING!
7-1
COPR. 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.
THAT GIRL? KERRY? HOW DOES SHE FIT INTO THIS PICTURE?
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED

I KEEP THINKING OF THAT ROMEO ~ THAT POOR SAP ~ WHO WANTED ME TO CLEAR HIM WITH HIS GIRL.
HARMLESS GOOF. HE WALKED INTO A HORNETS' NEST. THEY KILLED HIM ~ I TRIED TO SAVE HIM ~ THAT HELPS MY CONSCIENCE ~~
TO THINK ~ I DIDN'T KNOW HIS NAME ~ DIDN'T EVEN SEE HIS FACE ~ BET HE WAS HANDSOME ~~
COPR 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.
HEY ~ WHAT'S THIS? KERRY ~ THERE'S SOMEBODY UNDER THIS CANVAS!
7-2
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED
IT'S MIKE!
IS HE ~~ DEAD ~~?
I JUST FOUND HIM, PATCH, UNDER THE CANVAS.
I LEFT HIM ONLY A SHORT TIME AGO ~ TO PULL A ROPE UP ~
HE'S STILL BREATHING ~ UNCONSCIOUS.
WHAT'S THAT ON HIS JAW? LOOKS LIKE A SKULL!
COPR 1947 KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.
7-3
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED

WHY'D THAT SKULL MARK SCARE YOU SO, PATCH?
NEVER MIND! COME TO, MIKE!
COPR. 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.
UHH-- UHH--
MIKE! WHAT HAPPENED~ WHEN YOU PULLED UP THAT ROPE?
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED
NOT SURE~A GUY CAME OVER THE RAIL AT ME~THOUGHT I WAS SEEIN' THINGS. US IN MID-OCEAN. HOW COULD A GUY COME OUT OF THE OCEAN?
7-4
WAS HE THE GUY WE TOSSED OVERBOARD~ IN PORT?
HE LOOKED LIKE NOBODY I EVER SEEN BEFORE~ LIKE NOTHIN' HUMAN~~
SEE THAT SKULL MARK ON MIKE'S JAW, CAP? NOW~~ REMEMBER THAT ROMEO IN PORT? HE WORE A RING LIKE THAT!
SO WHAT, PATCH? WE TOSSED HIM OVERBOARD, TIED AND UNCONSCIOUS, 300 MILES BACK. THE PROPELLERS FINISHED HIM.
SUPPOSE THEY DIDN'T! SUPPOSE NOTHING COULD FINISH HIM!
WHAT YOU GETTIN' AT, PATCH?
COPR. 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.
DID YOU EVER HEAR OF THE GHOST WHO WALKS? DID YOU EVER HEAR OF THE PHANTOM?
7-5
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED.

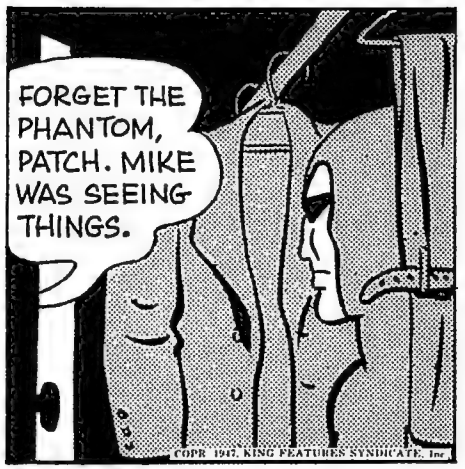
WHAT SAILOR HASN'T HEARD OF THE PHANTOM ~ "MAN WHO CANNOT DIE"? A SUPER~STITION, PATCH, LIKE THE FLYING DUTCHMAN.
SOMEONE ORDERED THE ENGINES CUT OFF, THRU THIS SPEAKING TUBE. A MYSTERIOUS VOICE! IT COULD HAVE BEEN THE PHANTOM'S~
7-7
SPEAKING FROM THE BOTTOM OF THE OCEAN? PATCH, YOU HAVE GOT THE SHAKES!
THEN WHOSE VOICE WAS IT?
COPR. 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.
HOPE PATCH NEVER LEARNS I ORDERED THE ENGINES STOPPED ~ TRYING TO SAVE THAT POOR GUY.
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED.
PATCH, YOU'RE LOCO!
YEAH? SOMEBODY BOARDED THIS SHIP IN MID-OCEAN! SOME~BODY SLUGGED MIKE!
HOW ABOUT THAT SKULL MARK ON HIS JAW?
MIKE PROBABLY GOT SLUGGED ASHORE IN A BRAWL ~ BUT~~ WE'LL SEARCH THE SHIP TO SATISFY YOU.
ISSUE ARMS TO ALL HANDS. ALL HANDS ON DECK. DETAIL SEARCHING PARTIES.
COPR. 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.
~SEARCH FOR STOW~ AWAY. COVER EVERY INCH OF SHIP!
7-8
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED

WHAT KINDA LOOKIN' GUY IS THIS STOWAWAY?
DON'T KNOW. CAP JUST SAID "FIND 'IM"

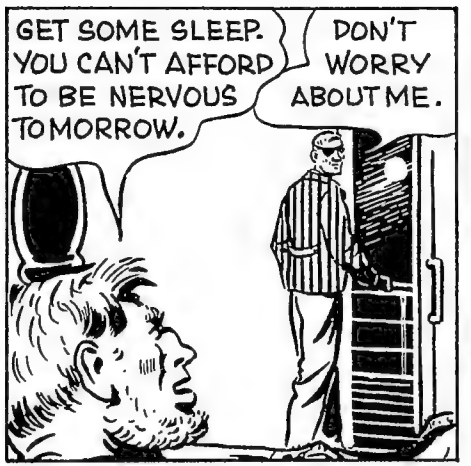
THE SHIP IS SEARCHED FROM TOP DECK TO KEEL~~
7-9

THEY'VE SEARCHED EVERYWHERE, PATCH~~
CAPTAIN'S QUAR
KEEP OUT
COPR. 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.

YOUR BOGEYMAN'S NOT ON THE SHIP, SO RELAX.
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED


FORGET THE PHANTOM, PATCH. MIKE WAS SEEING THINGS.
COPR. 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.

MIKE HITS THE BOTTLE, YOU KNOW.
I GUESS SO, CAP. I'M JUST KINDA NERVOUS TONIGHT - WITH THAT BIG JOB TOMORROW.
7-10
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED


GET SOME SLEEP. YOU CAN'T AFFORD TO BE NERVOUS TOMORROW.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME.

WHAT BIG JOB? I'LL SOON KNOW THE TRUTH ABOUT THIS MYSTERY YACHT!

TOMORROW~ I'LL KNOW WHAT THIS GANG IS UP TO~~
7-11
WONDER HOW DIANA IS? SHE'S PROBABLY WORRIED THAT I HAVEN'T COME BACK~ IF I COULD ONLY GET A CABLE TO HER~~
COPR 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.
BUT UNKNOWN TO THE PHANTOM, A FALSE WIRE WAS SENT BY PATCH.
HE'S GONE AWAY~ FOR GOOD~~
GOING ON CRUISE WILL NOT RETURN.
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED
WENT AWAY~ WITH THAT GIRL IN THE CAR~ OH, DEVIL~ SHE WAS AWFULLY PRETTY~~
I HATE HIM ~I HATE HIM ~ I NEVER WANT TO SEE HIM AGAIN!
COPR 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.
OH ~ I KNOW THAT'S NOT TRUE! I'LL ALWAYS LOVE HIM~~ IF I WERE A MAN ~ AND THIS HAPPENED~~
7-12
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED
~I COULD CHASE AFTER THEM~ FIGHT FOR WHAT IS MINE! WHY WASN'T I BORN A MAN!?
AT LEAST, I DON'T HAVE TO STAY HERE AND MOPE! I CAN GO, TOO! WHERE? ANY~ WHERE! JUST GO!

DIANA~WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
I DON'T KNOW, MAMA. JUST~ ~AWAY.
7-14
WE ALL KNOW HE RAN OFF WITH THAT GIRL. YOU SAID HE WASN'T THE TYPE, UNCLE DAVE.
I STILL DON'T THINK HE IS.
COPR 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.
HE WOULDN'T HAVE LEFT FOREVER~~ NOT WITHOUT DEVIL.
HE CAN COME BACK FOR DEVIL~ ~NOT FOR ME.
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED.
BESIDES, I DON'T CARE IF HE DOES COME BACK. I NEVER WANT TO SEE HIM AGAIN!
DIANA, YOU CAN'T LEAVE LIKE THIS. WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
PLEASE DON'T TRY TO STOP ME, UNCLE DAVE.
THAT WIRE FROM THE PHANTOM COULD BE A MISTAKE, YOU KNOW. WHAT IF HE COMES BACK? WHERE WILL YOU BE?
I DON'T WANT HIM TO KNOW WHERE I'M GOING. HE DOESN'T CARE, ANYHOW.
7-15
COPR 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.
GOOD-BYE ~ DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME~~
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED.

DIANA'S GONE~ BUT DON'T WORRY~ SHE CAN TAKE CARE OF HERSELF.
I NEVER TRUSTED THAT MASKED HOODLUM.
THE PHANTOM'S NOT THAT~ HE'S A GREAT GENTLEMAN. THAT'S WHY I CAN'T UNDERSTAND THE WIRE ~~
IT'S CLEAR ENOUGH TO ME!
COPR. 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.
"GOING ON CRUISE. WILL NOT RETURN." NO NAME ON IT. HOW DO WE KNOW HE SENT IT. IT DOESN'T SOUND LIKE HIM.
7-16
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED
AT LEAST, DEVIL'S STAYING WITH US.
THAT'S ALL WE NEED!
THAT'S THE SHIP WE'RE LOOKING FOR. THE S.S. "AJAX."
BIG BABY. LUXURY LINER.
BIG JOB'S AHEAD. HOW YOU FEELING, KERRY?
NEVER FELT BETTER IN MY LIFE, PATCH.
COPR. 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.
SEND A MESSAGE TO THE "AJAX"-"GIRL WITH APPENDICITIS ABOARD. HAVE YOU A DOCTOR?"
WHAT'S UP?
7-17
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED.

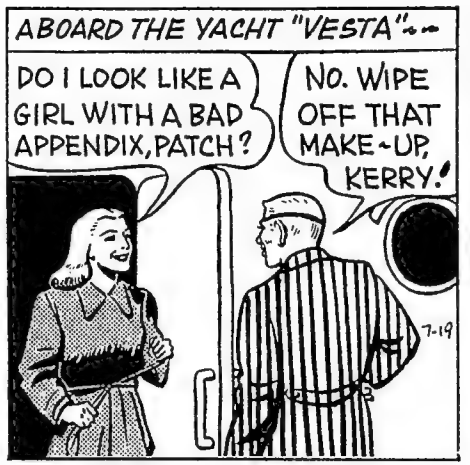
ABOARD THE LUXURY LINER "AJAX".
MESSAGE FROM S.S. "VESTA"- "GIRL WITH APPENDICITIS ABOARD. HAVE YOU A DOCTOR?" TAKE IT TO THE CAPTAIN.
7-18

THE "VESTA" IS THAT YACHT OUT THERE, SIR.
RADIO THEM THAT WE HAVE A DOCTOR ABOARD. WE'LL LOWER A BOAT AND SEND FOR THE GIRL.

THEY REPLIED THAT THEY HAVE A DOCTOR AND WILL SEND A BOAT FOR THE GIRL.
GOOD. RETURN THIS MESSAGE TO THE "AJAX".
COPR. 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.,

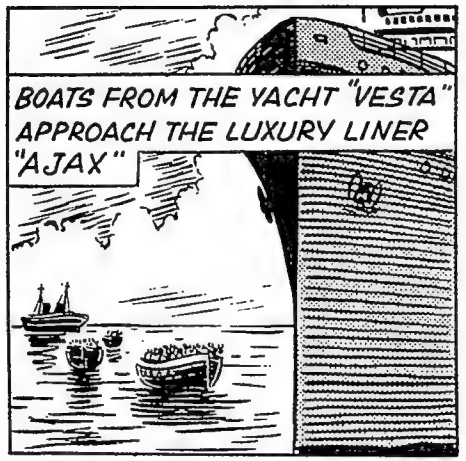
THEY ANSWER THAT THEY WILL LOWER OWN BOATS AND SEND GIRL TO US.
ODD - A YACHT THAT SIZE WITH LARGE BOATS.
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED.

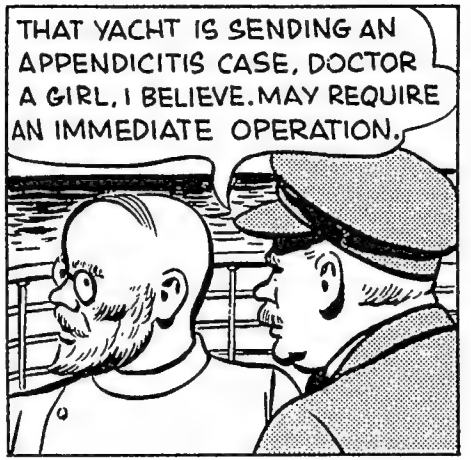
ABOARD THE "AJAX" - LUXURY LINER -
WHAT'S THE TROUBLE, CAPTAIN?
GIRL ON THAT YACHT HAS APPENDICITIS. WE'RE PICKING HER UP.


ABOARD THE YACHT "VESTA" - -
DO I LOOK LIKE A GIRL WITH A BAD APPENDIX, PATCH?
NO. WIPE OFF THAT MAKE-UP, KERRY!
7-19

COPR. 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.

WHAT'S GOING ON HERE? WHAT ARE THEY UP TO?
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED.


BOATS FROM THE YACHT "VESTA" APPROACH THE LUXURY LINER "AJAX"


THAT YACHT IS SENDING AN APPENDICITIS CASE, DOCTOR A GIRL, I BELIEVE. MAY REQUIRE AN IMMEDIATE OPERATION.

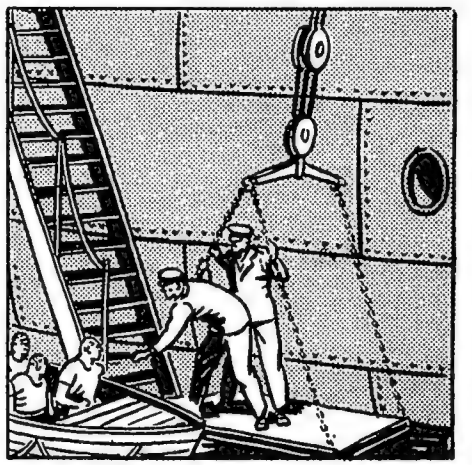
ISN'T THIS SIMPLY FASCINATING?
THEY SAY IT'S A GIRL WONDER IF SHE'S PRETTY?
7-21
COPR 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.,

NERVOUS, KERRY?
A LITTLE. I HOPE EVERYTHING GOES ALL RIGHT.
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED

KEEP YOUR RIFLES HANDY WAIT FOR THE USUAL SIGNAL FROM ME.

LIE BACK YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO HAVE APPENDICITIS.
YEAH -- REMEMBER -- I'M JUST SUPPOSED TO.
7-22
COPR 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.,

DON'T WAIT TOO LONG. I DON'T WANT THAT DOC TO START CARVING ME!
QUIET. THEY'RE PROBABLY WATCHING US THRU GLASSES.
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED



STRANGE - WHY DID THEY NEED SO MANY MEN TO BRING THE GIRL FROM THE YACHT?
COPR 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.
EASY WITH HER. SHE'S IN TERRIBLE PAIN
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED.
GEE, SHE MUST BE IN BAD SHAPE
I'LL CARRY HER UP. SHE'S QUITE DELICATE.
PATCH, DON'T DELAY TOO LONG, OR I'LL BREAK YOUR SKULL
QUIET.
7-23
OH, THE POOR THING
THIS WAY, PLEASE
BELOW, THE "VESTA" CREW, FINGERING HIDDEN RIFLES, AWAIT PATCH'S SIGNAL!
WE'LL GET YOU NICE AND COMFY.
7-24
DON'T WORRY, SIR. WE'LL START AT ONCE.
UH - DON'T RUSH THINGS - TOO MUCH
COPR 1947 KING FEATURES SYNDICATE Inc. WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED.

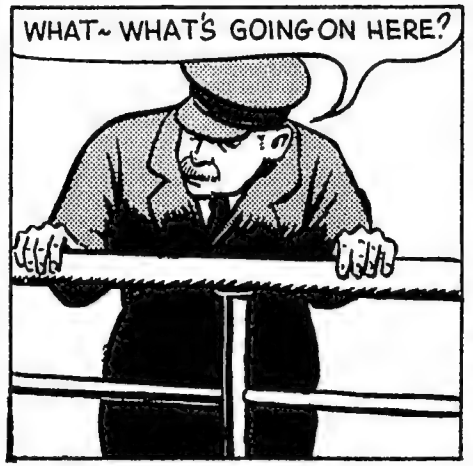
W-WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
DON'T WORRY ABOUT A THING, DEARIE.

AWFULLY GOOD OF YOU TO HELP US, CAPTAIN.
NOT AT ALL HOPE IT WORKS OUT ALL RIGHT FOR THE GIRL.

WHERE'S YOUR YACHT HEADED FOR?
NOWHERE IN PARTICULAR JUST A PLEASURE CRUISE...
7-25
COPR 1947 KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.

THE HANDKERCHIEF! PATCH'S SIGNAL!
LET'S GO!
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED

GANGWAY, OSWALD!


WHAT~ WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?

IS THIS~ PIRACY?
THAT'S A NASTY WORD, CAPTAIN.
COPR 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.

BUT~I FEEL ALL RIGHT NOW~~
THERE'S NOTHING TO BE AFRAID OF, MY DEAR...
7-26
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED.

THUGS FROM THE "VESTA" SWARM ON THE LUXURY LINER "AJAX".

WHO ARE THEY~?
FROM THE YACHT! PIRATES!

THE HUGE LINER IS UNEQUIPPED TO HANDLE THE ARMED INVADERS.
WE'RE TAKING OVER, CHUM!
7-28
COPR. 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.

PIRACY~IN THIS DAY AND AGE! INCREDIBLE!
WE'RE OLD-FASHIONED, CAPTAIN.
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED.

THE THUGS FROM THE "VESTA" TAKE OVER.
TURN OFF THE STEAM, BOYS. YOU AIN'T GOING NOWHERES.

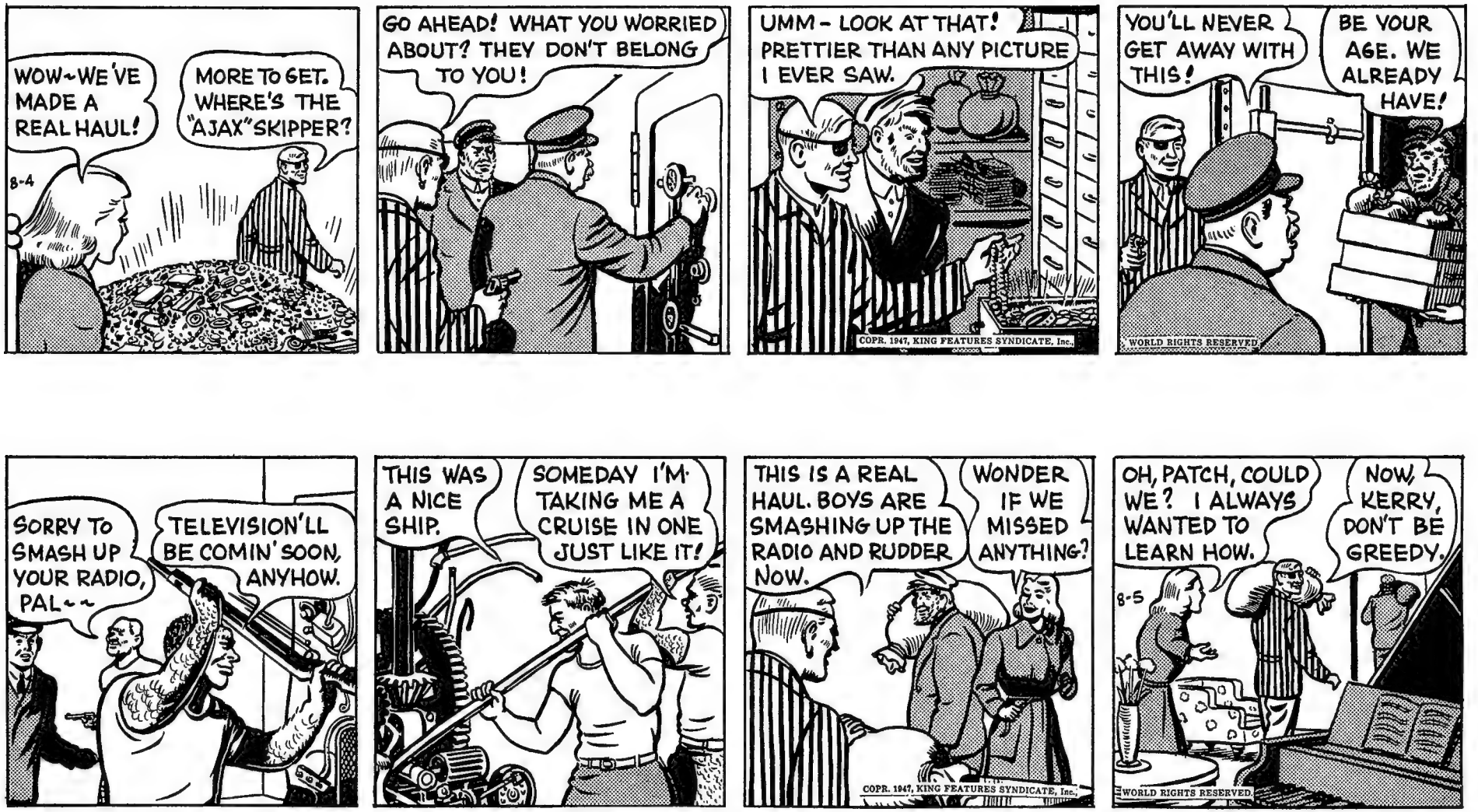
YOU USED THAT "SICK" GIRL AS A FRONT~TO GET ABOARD!
YOU'RE QUICK, CAPTAIN. YOU OUGHTA BE ON THE RADIO.

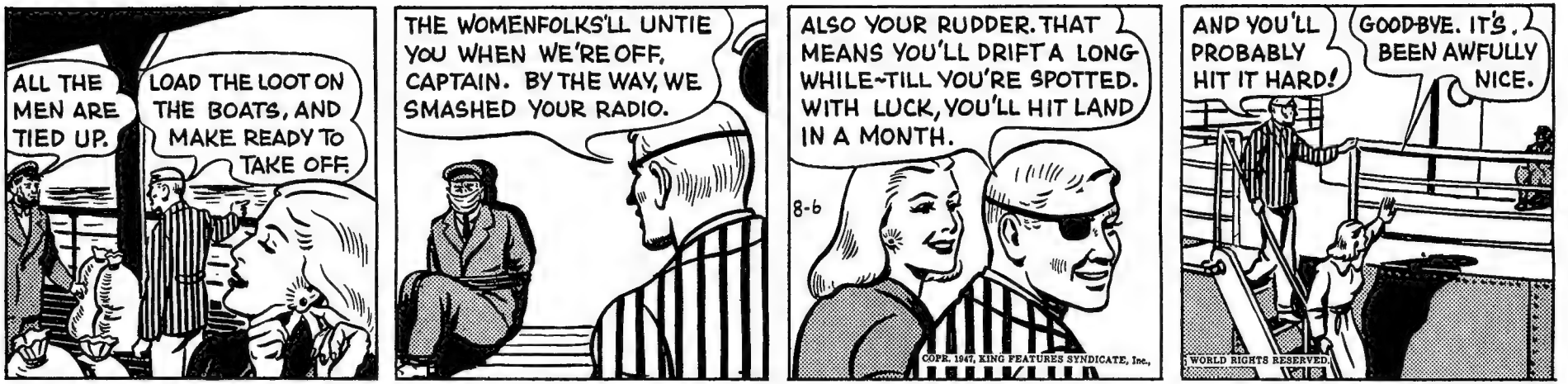
THE SITUATION'S WELL IN HAND, PATCH.
GOOD. I'D BETTER SEE HOW KERRY'S DOING.
COPR. 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.

THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH ME.
MISS~~THIS IS MOST IRREGULAR~ OUCH!
7-29
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED.

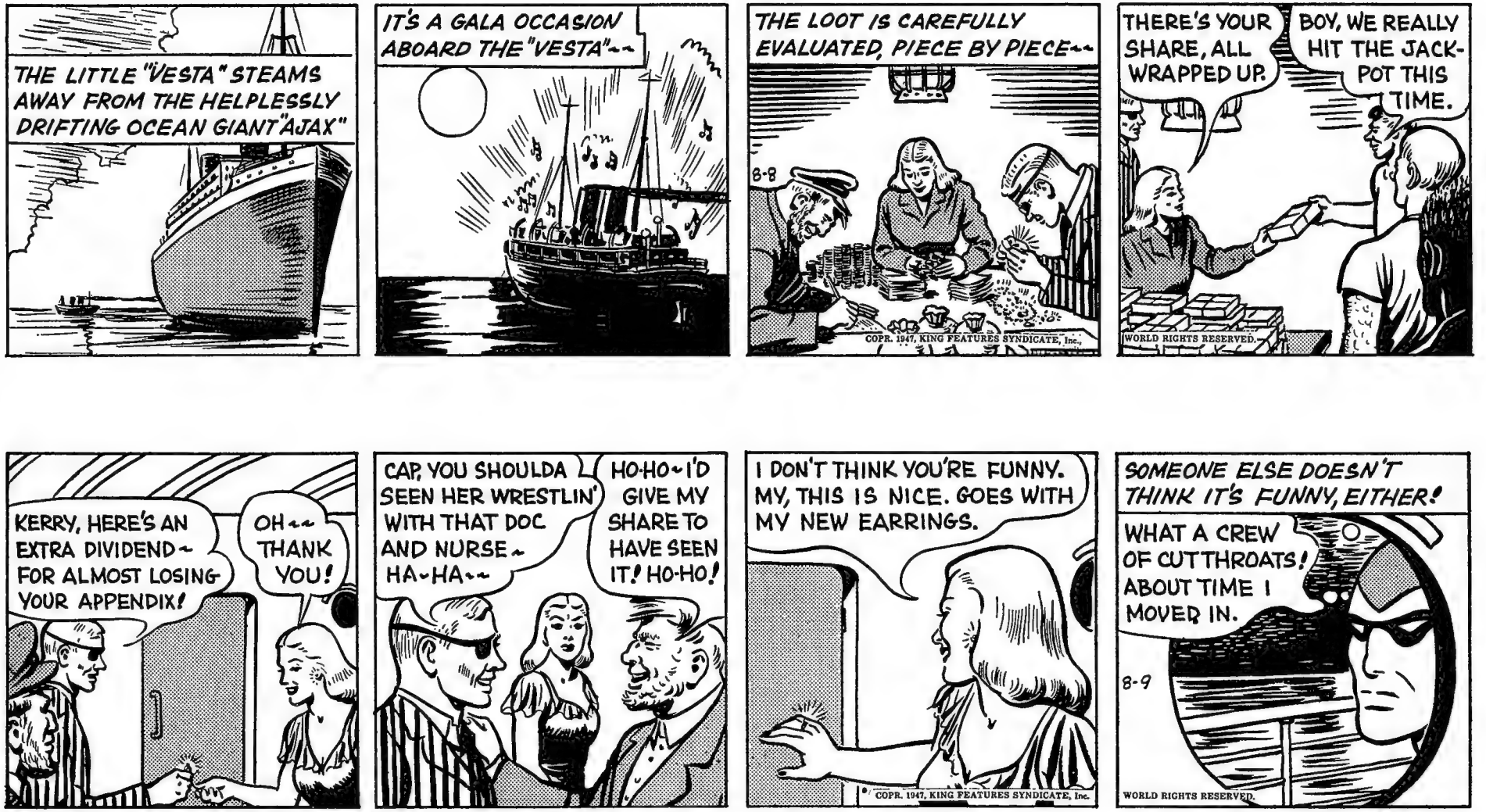
HOLD HER DOWN~OOF!
PLEASE~MISS~WE'RE TRYING TO HELP YOU!
I DON'T NEED ANY HELP! THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH MY APPENDIX~OR ANYTHING ELSE!
COPR 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.
YOU'D BETTER LET US EXAMINE YOU AND FIND OUT!
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED.
NURSE! GET A HYPO! SHE'S GETTING VIOLENT!
7-30
LET HER UP!
COPR 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.
PHEW~SHE DOESN'T NEED AN OPERATION. SHE NEEDS A STRAIT JACKET!
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED
X!&%!#CC4! I TOLD YOU NOT TO WAIT TOO LONG!
TEMPER, TEMPER!
ANOTHER MINUTE, AND I'D HAVE HAD AN APPENDECTOMY!
MIGHTA DONE YOU SOME GOOD.
7-31

SAILORS FROM THE YACHT HAVE THE HUGE LUXURY LINER "AJAX" UNDER CONTROL!
COPR. 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.
GET GOING, YOU!
THIS IS AN OUTRAGE!
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED
PUT ALL MONEY AND JEWELRY ON THE TABLE. DON'T HIDE ANYTHING. YOU'LL BE SEARCHED BEFORE LEAVING.
THIS IS AN--
OUTRAGE. WE KNOW. IT'S TOUGH ALL OVER. DON'T HOLD UP THE LINE.
8-1
THAT'S ALL I HAVE
JUST A MINUTE, YOU.
I THOUGHT I SAW SOMETHING SHINING THROUGH THE FOLIAGE. REAL DIAMONDS! FOR SHAME.
SOME PEOPLE HAVE NO SENSE OF HONOR. UMM-NICE. KERRY WANT.
THEY'RE YOURS. NEXT!
COPR. 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.
MEANWHILE, WATCHING FROM THE DECK OF THE YACHT--
SO THAT'S THE STORY. KERRY AND HER PALS ARE PIRATES. LOOKS LIKE I WALKED INTO SOMETHING!
8-2
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED.


WOW~WE'VE MADE A REAL HAUL!
MORE TO GET. WHERE'S THE "AJAX" SKIPPER?
8-4
GO AHEAD! WHAT YOU WORRIED ABOUT? THEY DON'T BELONG TO YOU!
UMM - LOOK AT THAT! PRETTIER THAN ANY PICTURE I EVER SAW.
COPR. 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.
YOU'LL NEVER GET AWAY WITH THIS!
BE YOUR AGE. WE ALREADY HAVE!
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED
SORRY TO SMASH UP YOUR RADIO, PAL~~
TELEVISION'LL BE COMIN' SOON, ANYHOW.
THIS WAS A NICE SHIP.
SOMEDAY I'M TAKING ME A CRUISE IN ONE JUST LIKE IT!
THIS IS A REAL HAUL. BOYS ARE SMASHING UP THE RADIO AND RUDDER NOW.
WONDER IF WE MISSED ANYTHING?
COPR. 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.
OH, PATCH, COULD WE? I ALWAYS WANTED TO LEARN HOW.
NOW, KERRY, DON'T BE GREEDY.
8-5
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED


ALL THE MEN ARE TIED UP.
LOAD THE LOOT ON THE BOATS, AND MAKE READY TO TAKE OFF.
THE WOMENFOLKS'LL UNTIE YOU WHEN WE'RE OFF, CAPTAIN. BY THE WAY, WE SMASHED YOUR RADIO.
ALSO YOUR RUDDER. THAT MEANS YOU'LL DRIFT A LONG WHILE-TILL YOU'RE SPOTTED. WITH LUCK, YOU'LL HIT LAND IN A MONTH.
8-6
COPR. 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.,
AND YOU'LL PROBABLY HIT IT HARD!
GOOD-BYE. IT'S BEEN AWFULLY NICE.
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED.

THE "VESTA" PIRATES LEAVE THE HELPLESS "AJAX"--
OH, CAPTAIN-- WHAT CAN WE DO--?
WE'RE LUCKY TO BE ALIVE! STRIPPED US CLEAN-SMASHED OUR RADIO-OUR RUDDER--
8-7
YOU WON'T GET AWAY WITH THIS! YOU HEAR ME! WE'LL FIND YOU!
COPR. 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.,
LISTEN TO HIM BAWL!
WHAT A HAUL!
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED.


THE LITTLE "VESTA" STEAMS AWAY FROM THE HELPLESSLY DRIFTING OCEAN GIANT "AJAX"
IT'S A GALA OCCASION ABOARD THE "VESTA"--
THE LOOT IS CAREFULLY EVALUATED, PIECE BY PIECE--
8-8
COPR. 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.,
THERE'S YOUR SHARE, ALL WRAPPED UP.
BOY, WE REALLY HIT THE JACK-POT THIS TIME.
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED.
KERRY, HERE'S AN EXTRA DIVIDEND- FOR ALMOST LOSING YOUR APPENDIX!
OH-- THANK YOU!
CAP, YOU SHOULDA SEEN HER WRESTLIN' WITH THAT DOC AND NURSE- HA-HA--
HO-HO-I'D GIVE MY SHARE TO HAVE SEEN IT! HO-HO!
I DON'T THINK YOU'RE FUNNY. MY, THIS IS NICE. GOES WITH MY NEW EARRINGS.
COPR. 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.
SOMEONE ELSE DOESN'T THINK IT'S FUNNY, EITHER!
WHAT A CREW OF CUTTHROATS! ABOUT TIME I MOVED IN.
8-9
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED.

HOW ABOUT A CARD GAME?
KERRY AND I ARE GOING FOR A STROLL, CAP.
8-11

KERRY, HOW ABOUT OUR GETTING MARRIED?
HEY ~ YOU GET RIGHT TO THE POINT, DON'T YOU?

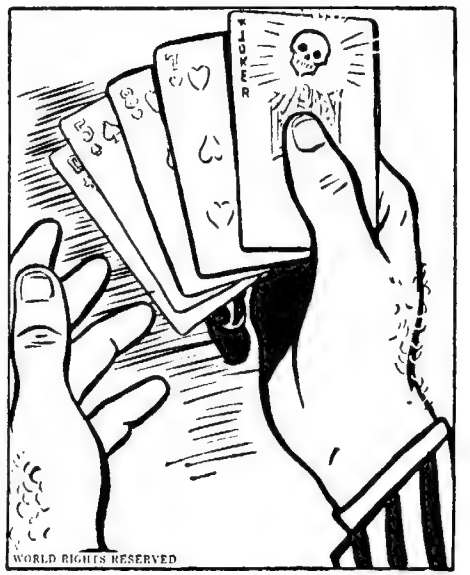
AFTER THAT "AJAX" HAUL, WE CAN ENJOY LIFE AND GIVE UP THIS RAT RACE.
BUT I LIKE THIS "RAT RACE"
COPR. 1947 KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.

NO ROMANCE, PATCH. I'M STRICTLY BUSINESS! LET'S GO BACK TO THE CARDS.
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED

THAT "AJAX" JOB WAS THE SLICKEST EVER!
BIGGEST HAUL WE EVER HAD~ NOBODY GOT HURT.

IT WENT SO SMOOTHLY! NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT! THEY'LL NEVER CATCH US! WE MADE A CLEAN BREAK!

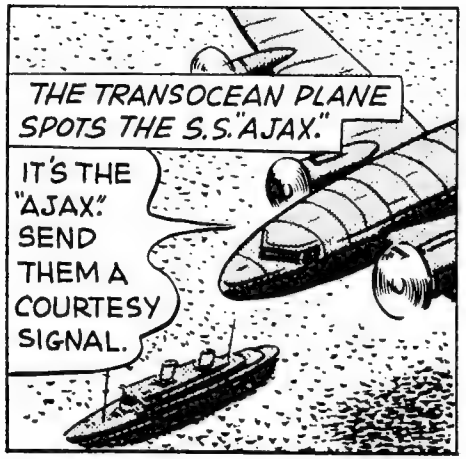
YES, SIR, IT WAS THE SMOOTHEST ~GULP~~UH~~
8-12
COPR. 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.


JOKER
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED

PATCH! WHAT HAPPENED?
SOMEBODY'S GOT A GREAT SENSE OF HUMOR! LOOK AT THAT CARD--THE JOKER!
YOU MUST HAVE DONE IT.
YOU MUST HAVE DONE IT.
COPR 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc
OH, SO YOU'RE IN CAHOOTS, HUH?
DON'T BLOW YOUR TOP, PATCH. CAN'T YOU TAKE A JOKE?
8-13
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED
LAUGH YOUR HEADS OFF. ANY MORE JOKES LIKE THAT, AND I'LL START BLASTING!
COPR 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc
POOR PATCH. HE ALMOST HAD HEART FAILURE WHEN HE SAW THAT SKULL ON THE CARD.
GREAT STUNT, KERRY. HE TURNED WHITE.
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED
DON'T GIVE ME THE CREDIT, YOU SLY OLD SEA DOG. IT WAS YOUR OWN IDEA.
STOP BEING MODEST.
8-14
WISH I'D THOUGHT OF IT FIRST. SURE TOOK HIM DOWN A PEG!
CAP~ I DIDN'T DO IT~
TOMORROW: WHO~DID?

YOU MEAN TO SAY YOU DIDN'T PUT THIS SKULL ON PATCH'S CARD?
NO, CAP. HONEST~
I WAS LAUGHING BECAUSE I THOUGHT YOU DID IT.
I LAUGHED BECAUSE I THOUGHT YOU DID IT.
IF YOU DIDN'T DO IT~~AND I KNOW I DIDN'T~THEN~ WHO DID?
8-5
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED
YOU MEAN~YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT THIS SKULL IS?
JUST A DEATH'S-HEAD~ THE USUAL THING~~
IT'S THE MARK OF THE PHANTOM! REMEMBER THAT ROMEO WE TOSSED OVERBOARD IN PORT? HE WORE A RING LIKE THAT.
HIM? HE'S DEAD!
THE SAME MARK'S ON MIKE'S JAW!~HE SAYS SOMEBODY CLIMBED ABOARD AND SLUGGED HIM~300 MILES OUT AT SEA!
8-16
NOBODY~CAN COME BACK~
MAYBE THE PHANTOM CAN~~
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED
CONT'D.

PHANTOM-ON THIS SHIP? BUT HE'S JUST A-SUPER-STITION!
HE CAN'T BE ABOARD! I'LL TELL YOU WHY, KERRY!
COPR. 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.
FOR CENTURIES THE PHANTOM'S BEEN A JINX FOR ALL PIRATE SHIPS! BUT THERE'S NO JINX RIDING WITH US! WE MADE A SUCCESSFUL RAID--
8-18
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED
-TOOK A FORTUNE FROM THE "AJAX", AND GOT AWAY SCOT-FREE! SO THAT PROVES IT!
YOU'RE AS SUPERSTITIOUS AS THE REST, CAP!
BUT CAP IS WRONG! A NEMESIS IS ABOARD THE ILL-FATED PIRATE "VESTA." RETRIBUTION IS NEAR!
THE HUGE LUXURY LINER "AJAX", SACKED BY THE PIRATES OF THE "VESTA", DRIFTS HELPLESSLY AT SEA.
NO USE, SIR. THEY SMASHED THE RADIO TRANSMITTER FOR KEEPS
THE STEERING EQUIPMENT CAN'T BE REPAIRED, EITHER, CAPTAIN.
WE'RE DRIFTING TOWARDS THE BARRIER REEF. WITHIN TWENTY-FOUR HOURS, WE'LL SMASH!
WE HAVE TO ABANDON SHIP-
8-19
COPR. 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.
-BUT I HATE TO RISK THE PASSENGERS IN SMALL BOATS IN THAT HEAVY SEA-
CAPTAIN, A PLANE!
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED


THE TRANSOCEAN PLANE SPOTS THE S.S. "AJAX."
IT'S THE "AJAX." SEND THEM A COURTESY SIGNAL.

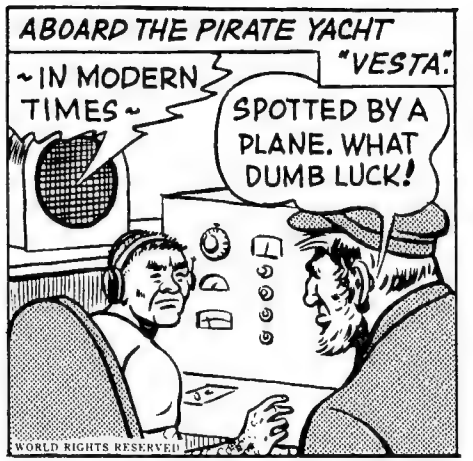
THEY DIPPED THEIR WINGS- THEY SEE US!
IF WE COULD ONLY RADIO THEM -TELL THEM WE'RE HELPLESS! BUT OUR TRANSMITTER'S SMASHED--!
8-20

I'M TRYING TO REACH THEM- NO REPLY-
STRANGE-THERE'S NO WAKE BEHIND HER. JUST DRIFTING IN MID-OCEAN- LOOK, THEY'RE SENDING FLASH SIGNALS!
COPR. 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.,

IF ONLY THEY SEE THIS-AND KNOW THE CODE!
THEIR WINGS DIPPED AGAIN! THEY DO!
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED.

THE SENSATIONAL NEWS FLASHES AROUND THE WORLD.
PIRACY AT SEA
"AJAX" ADRIFT
LUXURY LINER SACKED BY UNKNOWN
PIRATES SPOTTED BY PLANE
1200 PASSENGERS ROBBED
YACHT BRIGANDS ESCAPE

-AND NEWS SERVICES REPORT THAT SHIPS AND PLANES ARE SPEEDING TO THE STRANDED OCEAN GIANT AFTER THE FIRST MAJOR ACT OF PIRACY IN MODERN TIMES--
8-21
COPR. 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.


ABOARD THE PIRATE YACHT "VESTA."
-IN MODERN TIMES-
SPOTTED BY A PLANE. WHAT DUMB LUCK!
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED

THE JIG'S UP, PATCH. WHAT'LL WE DO?
PLANES AND SHIPS WILL SEARCH THE OCEAN FOR US-- WE CAN'T LAND IN ANY PORT-

PLANES AND SHIPS OF EVERY NAVY WILL LOOK FOR US~WE'RE SAFE TONIGHT~ WHILE IT'S DARK, BUT TOMORROW~~
WE EACH HAVE OUR SHARE OF THE LOOT.
WE'LL HEAD FOR LAND TONIGHT. AT DAWN, WE'LL TAKE OFF IN BOATS, GET ASHORE, AND MEET LATER.
8-22
WHAT ABOUT THIS YACHT?
SINK IT, NATURALLY! WE'LL GET ANOTHER ONE~JUST AS WE GOT THIS ONE~BY STEALING IT!
COPR. 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.
EVERYTHING WAS GOING SO WELL~ WHAT ROTTEN LUCK! WE'RE JINXED~~
HMM~~
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED
THAT'S IT, MEN WE'LL ABANDON THIS YACHT BEFORE DAYBREAK WE EACH HAVE OUR SHARE OF THE LOOT~~
WE'LL ROW TO LAND, SCATTER, AND MEET IN TWO MONTHS AT THE USUAL SPOT. BY THEN WE'LL HAVE A NEW SHIP.
MIGHT AS WELL GET SOME SLEEP.
NICE TUB. TOO BAD WE HAFTA SINK HER.
COPR. 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.
I'VE GOT TO KEEP THIS GANG FROM SINKING THIS YACHT AND SCATTERING WITH THEIR LOOT~ BUT HOW?
8-23
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED

I'M GLAD WE'RE SINKIN' THIS TUB AND GETTIN' TO LAND. I CAN'T WAIT TO START SPENDIN' THIS SWAG!
ME TOO!

NOBODY'S GONNA STEAL MY SHARE TONIGHT! I'M GONNA STAY UP ALL NIGHT AND SIT ON IT!
COPR. 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.

AW~ WE'RE 500 MILES FROM SHORE! WHO'D STEAL IT?
TURN OFF THE LIGHTS. LET'S GET SOME SHUT-EYE!
8-25
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED

LATER, AS SNORES ROCK THE BUNKROOM OF THE "VESTA"!

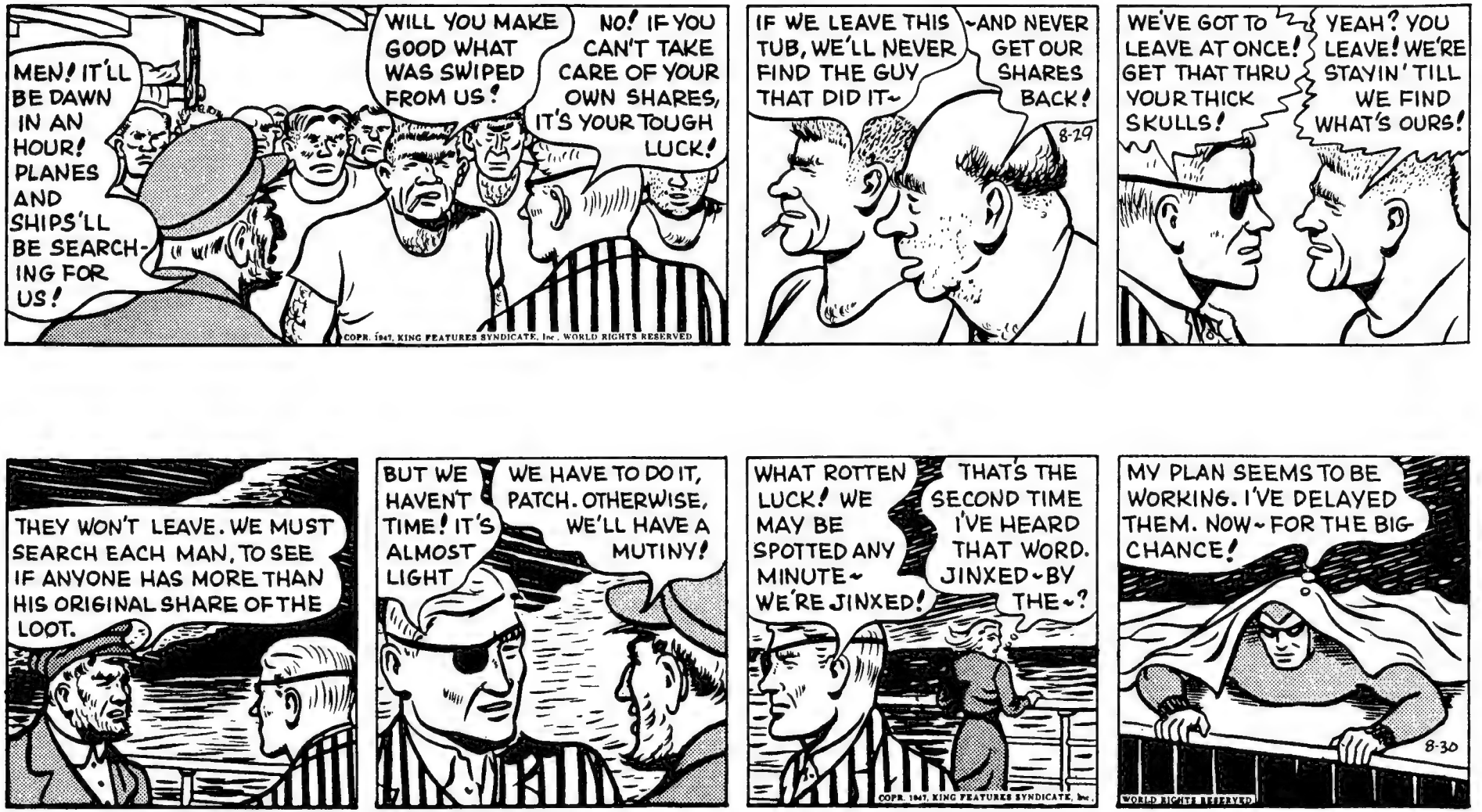
NIGHT~ IN THE BUNK-ROOM OF THE PIRATE SHIP "VESTA"~
UH ~ WHO'S THAT~ UMPH~
8-26

I DON'T LIKE THIS ~ EVEN THO' THESE MEN ARE PIRATES AND THIS IS STOLEN PROPERTY~

BUT IT'S THE ONLY WAY I CAN KEEP THIS GANG FROM SINKING THE YACHT AND SCATTERING~~
COPR. 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.

WILL THE PHANTOM'S PLAN WORK?
DON'T WAKE UP, YOU, OR I'LL HAVE TO PUT YOU BACK TO SLEEP~~
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED

WAKE UP THE MEN. WE'VE GOT AN HOUR TO BE OFF THIS YACHT AND SINK IT BEFORE DAWN.
MEANWHILE, IN THE BUNK-ROOM~~
MY SHARE~ MY JEWELS~ ~GONE!
COPR. 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.
HEY~ I HAD MY SHARE IN THIS POCKET~ IT'S GONE!
MINE TOO!
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED
HE WAS AFRAID SOMEBODY'D LIFT HIS SHARE ~ HE STAYED UP ALL NIGHT~
SOMEBODY SLUGGED HIM~~
8-27
IN THE "VESTA" BUNK-ROOM, WHERE THE LOOT-SHARES OF A DOZEN MEN HAVE VANISHED IN THE NIGHT!
SOMEONE HERE'S A ~~XC!GGX~~! THIEF!
YOU WAS AWAKE. WHO SLUGGED YOU?
BET HE SWIPED IT ALL ~ THEN SLUGGED HIM-SELF!
STEP LIVELY, MEN. WE'RE ABANDONING SHIP AT ONCE, ACCORDING TO PLAN!
8-28
COPR. 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.
WE'RE NOT LEAVIN' THIS TUB TILL WE GET OUR STOLEN SHARES BACK!
YEAH! YEAH!
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED


MEN! IT'LL BE DAWN IN AN HOUR! PLANES AND SHIPS'LL BE SEARCHING FOR US!
WILL YOU MAKE GOOD WHAT WAS SWIPED FROM US!
NO! IF YOU CAN'T TAKE CARE OF YOUR OWN SHARES, IT'S YOUR TOUGH LUCK!
COPR. 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc., WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED
IF WE LEAVE THIS TUB, WE'LL NEVER FIND THE GUY THAT DID IT~
~AND NEVER GET OUR SHARES BACK!
8-29
WE'VE GOT TO LEAVE AT ONCE! GET THAT THRU YOUR THICK SKULLS!
YEAH? YOU LEAVE! WE'RE STAYIN' TILL WE FIND WHAT'S OURS!
THEY WON'T LEAVE. WE MUST SEARCH EACH MAN, TO SEE IF ANYONE HAS MORE THAN HIS ORIGINAL SHARE OF THE LOOT.
BUT WE HAVEN'T TIME! IT'S ALMOST LIGHT
WE HAVE TO DO IT, PATCH. OTHERWISE, WE'LL HAVE A MUTINY!
WHAT ROTTEN LUCK! WE MAY BE SPOTTED ANY MINUTE~ WE'RE JINXED!
THAT'S THE SECOND TIME I'VE HEARD THAT WORD. JINXED~BY THE~?
COPR. 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.
MY PLAN SEEMS TO BE WORKING. I'VE DELAYED THEM. NOW~FOR THE BIG CHANCE!
8-30
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED

DAWN, ON THE DECK OF THE PIRATE "VESTA"-ALL HANDS ARE SEARCHED FOR THE MISSING SHARES OF LOOT!
COPR. 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.

COME ON-YOU TOO, SPARKS! EVERYBODY'S BEING SEARCHED! HURRY UP!
RADIO ROOM
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED

NOW FOR THE BIG CHANCE-- IT'S ONE I HAVE TO TAKE-- MEANS EXPOSING MYSELF- BUT I MUST WORK FAST--

CALLING ALL SHIPS AND PLANES AT SEA - THIS IS THE "VESTA", PIRATE SHIP. CALLING ALL SHIPS--
9-1

CALLING ALL SHIPS AND PLANES AT SEA-"VESTA" CALLING-HELLO- HELLO--
COPR. 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.

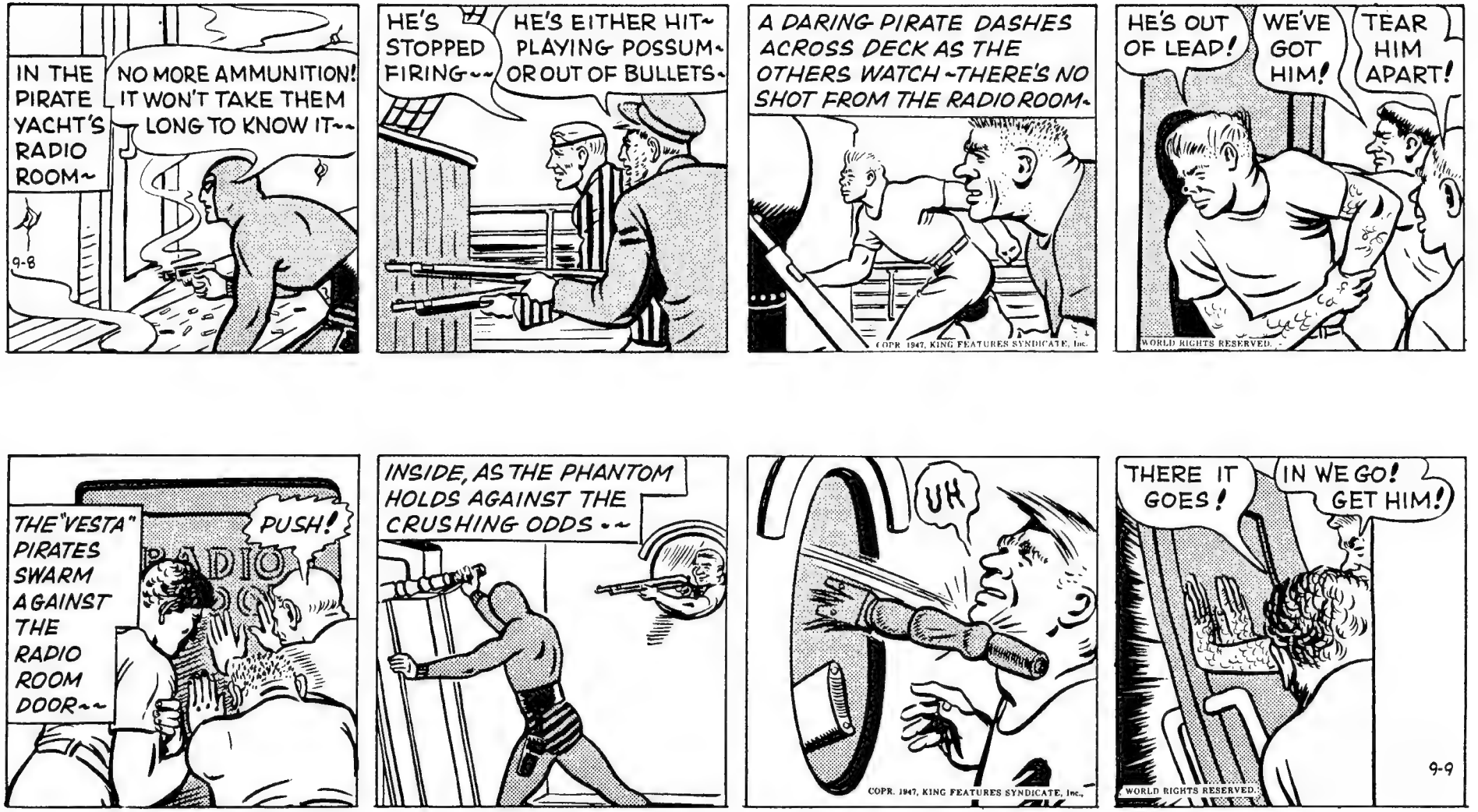
ABOARD A TRANSOCEAN PLANE-
CALLING FROM "VESTA", PIRATE YACHT THAT SACKED THE S.S."AJAX".
DO YOU HEAR WHAT I HEAR?
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED.

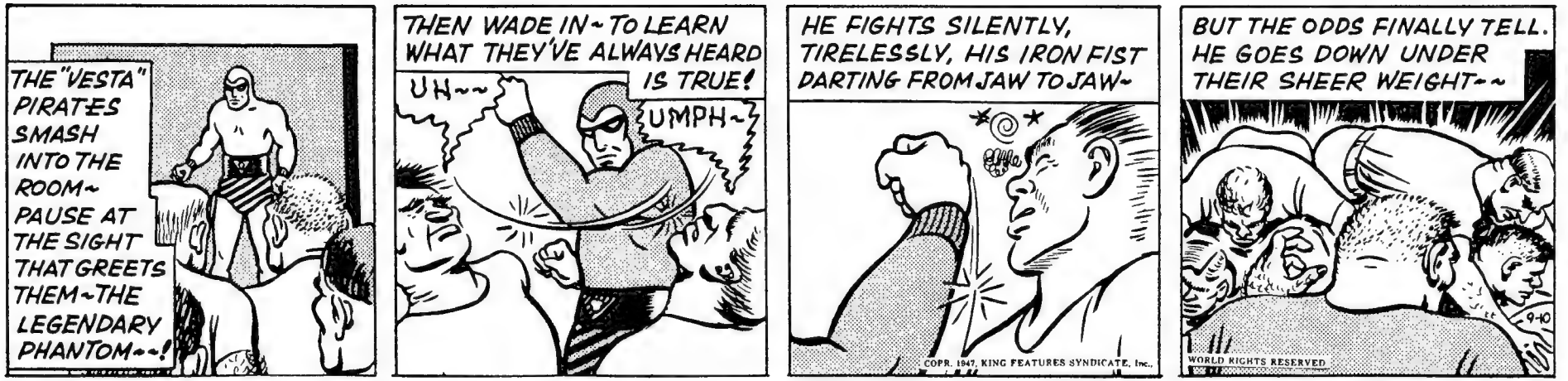
IN THE RADIO ROOM OF A DESTROYER--
-CREW IS ABANDONING "VESTA". HURRY-HURRY-OUR LOCATION IS--
9-2

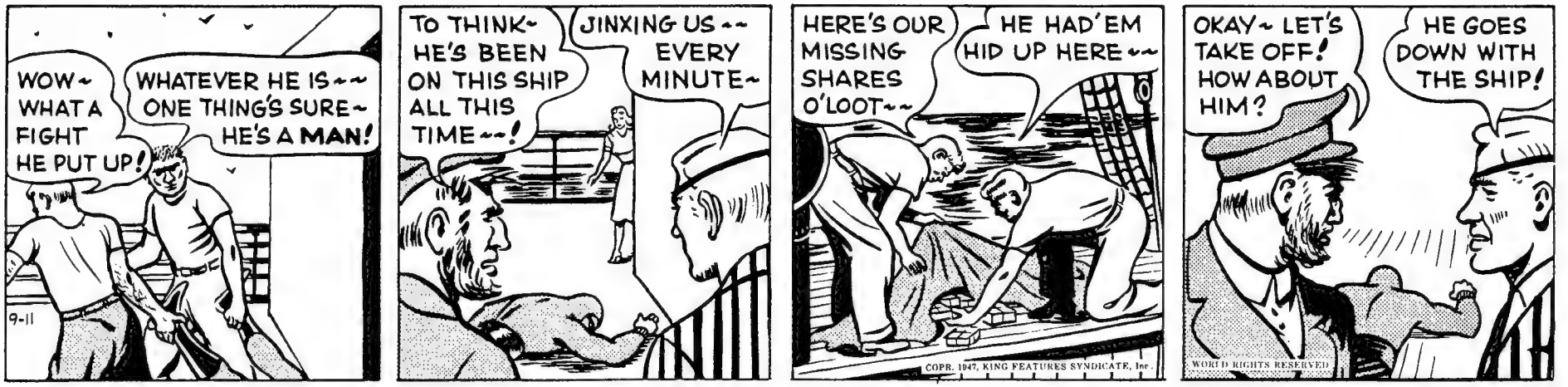
AND ABOARD THE PIRATE "VESTA"
LISTEN TO OUR TRANSMITTER! SOMEONE'S IN THE RADIO ROOM!
BUT EVERY HAND IS ON DECK- HERE!

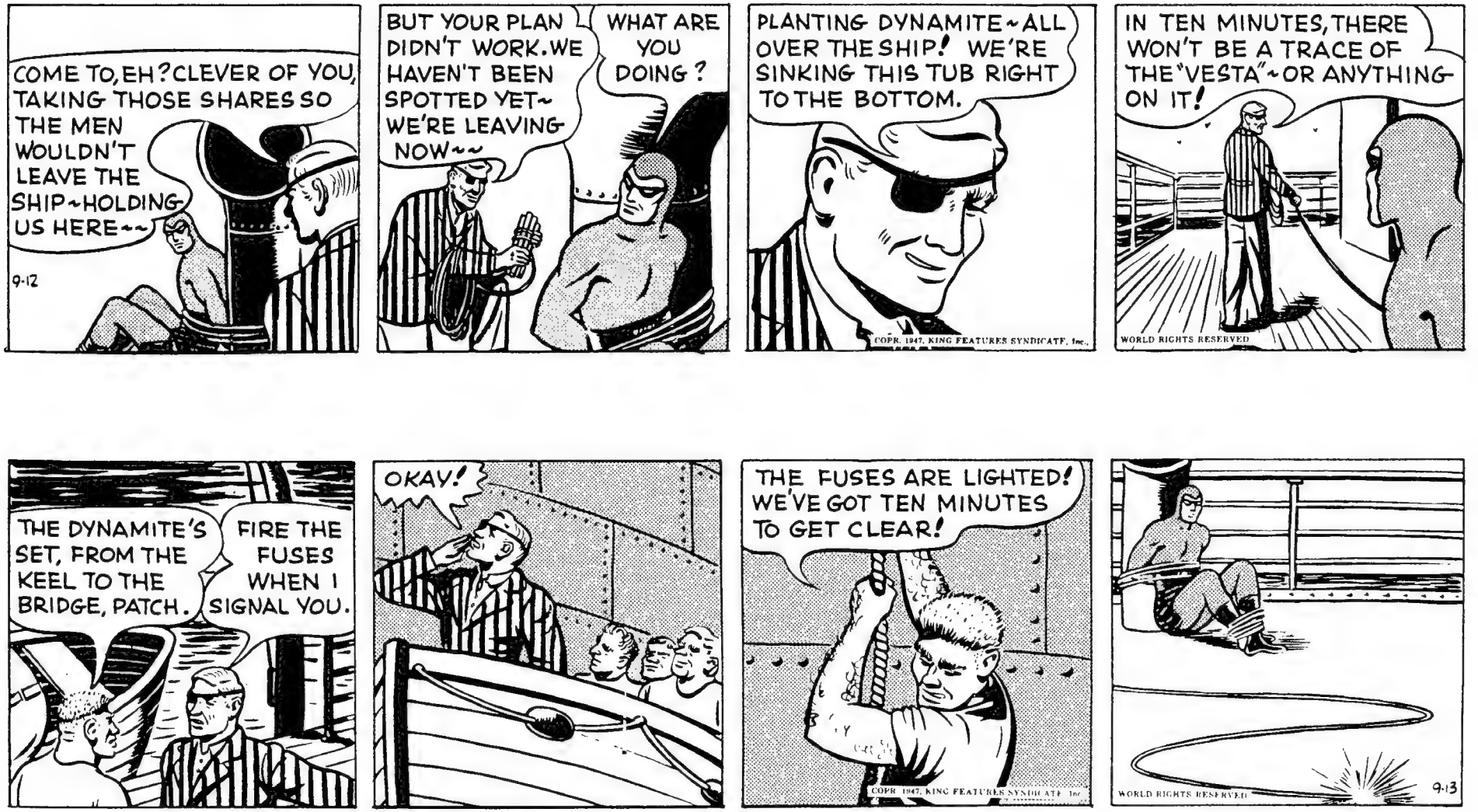
ALL HANDS ARE ON DECK! ONLY ONE PERSON CAN BE IN THE RADIO ROOM~ OUR JINX~~
THE PHANTOM!
THE RADIO ROOM IS QUICKLY SURROUNDED~~
WE KNOW YOU'RE IN THERE!
COME AND GET ME!
RADIO ROOM
9-3
COPR. 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.
PATCH SIGNALS~A BARRAGE OF HOT LEAD POURS INTO THE CABIN FROM ALL SIDES!
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED
THE PHANTOM IS TRAPPED IN THE "VESTA" RADIO ROOM AS BULLETS POUR IN FROM ALL SIDES.
NO POINT IN JUST TAKING IT. MIGHT AS WELL HAND SOME OUT, TOO!
LOOK OUT~ HE'S SPRAYING 'EM!
COPR. 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.
HE'S SHOOTING~IN EVERY DIRECTION~ AT ONCE! HOW MANY~PHANTOMS ARE IN THERE?
9-4
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED

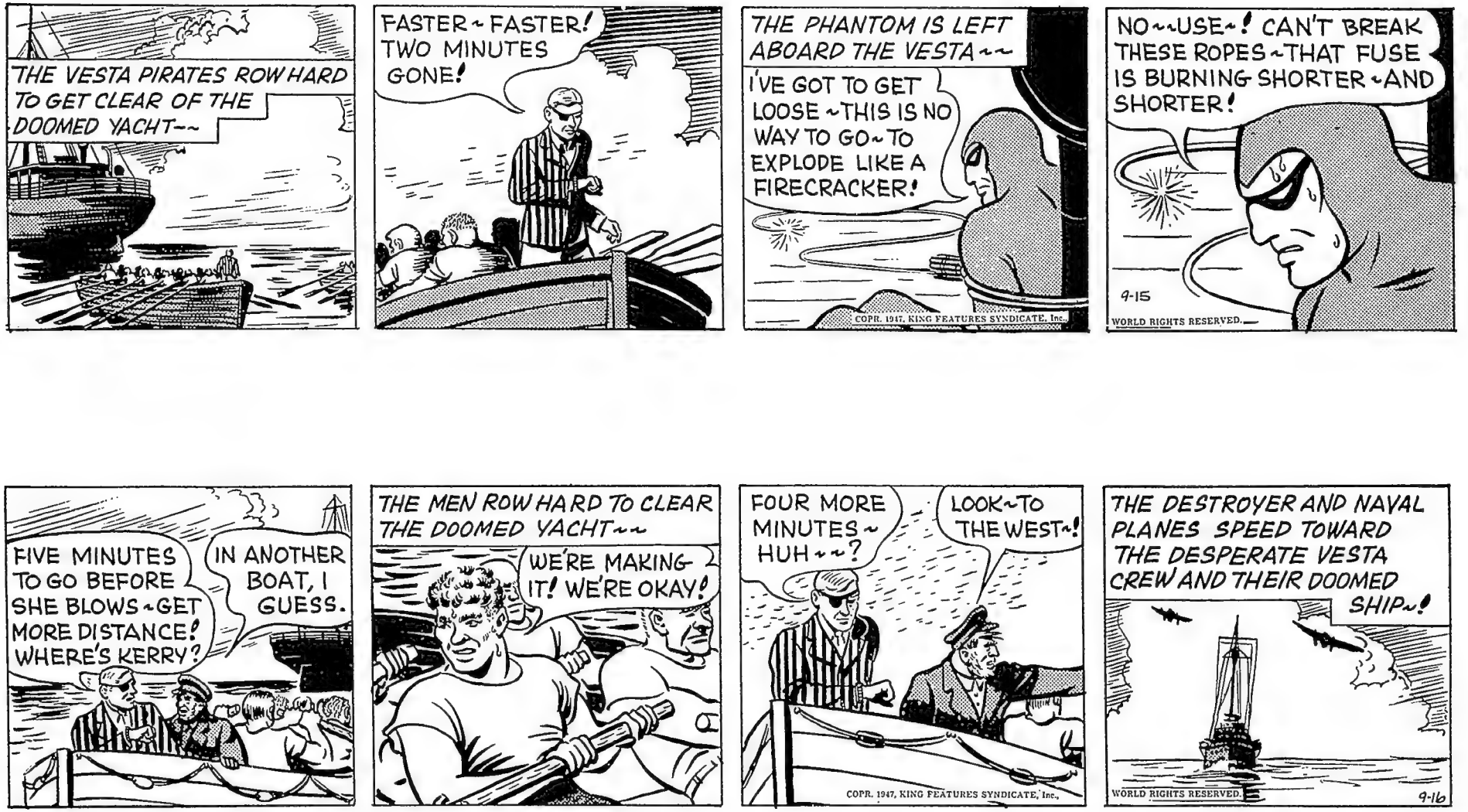
THE TRANS-MISSION STOPPED SUDDENLY, SIR.
"VESTA PIRATES ABANDONING SHIP~ HURRY~~" ~WHO COULD HAVE SENT IT?
ABOARD A NAVAL DESTROYER~~
MIGHT BE A HOAX, SIR.
MIGHT BE. BUT WE MUST INVESTIGATE. THE "AJAX" AFFAIR IS TOO BIG TO IGNORE.
MEANWHILE, ABOARD THE PIRATE "VESTA" THE BATTLE RAGES ON~ THE ENTIRE PIRATE CREW AGAINST~~
9-5
COPR. 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.
I'LL HOLD THIS GANG AS LONG AS I CAN! IF ONLY MY MESSAGE IS BELIEVED~AND NOT TAKEN AS A JOKE!
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED
ABOARD THE PIRATE YACHT "VESTA" WHERE THE PHANTOM IS TRAPPED~~
BROAD DAYLIGHT! WE'LL BE SPOTTED BY A PLANE ANY MINUTE! CAP~WE'VE GOT TO LEAVE THIS SHIP!
HOW? NOBODY CAN REACH THE BOATS WHILE HE'S SHOOTING LIKE THAT!
COPR. 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc., WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED.
BESIDES, WE CAN'T LEAVE HIM BEHIND TO REPORT US! WE DON'T GO ~UNTIL HE'S DEAD!
THAT~ WAS MY LAST BULLET! IT'S ALL OVER NOW~~
9-6


IN THE PIRATE YACHT'S RADIO ROOM~
NO MORE AMMUNITION! IT WON'T TAKE THEM LONG TO KNOW IT~~
9-8
HE'S STOPPED FIRING~~
HE'S EITHER HIT~ PLAYING POSSUM~ OR OUT OF BULLETS~
A DARING PIRATE DASHES ACROSS DECK AS THE OTHERS WATCH ~THERE'S NO SHOT FROM THE RADIO ROOM~
COPR. 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.
HE'S OUT OF LEAD!
WE'VE GOT HIM!
TEAR HIM APART!
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED.
THE "VESTA" PIRATES SWARM AGAINST THE RADIO ROOM DOOR~~
PUSH!
INSIDE, AS THE PHANTOM HOLDS AGAINST THE CRUSHING ODDS ~~
UH
COPR. 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.,
THERE IT GOES!
IN WE GO! GET HIM!
9-9
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED.


THE "VESTA" PIRATES SMASH INTO THE ROOM~ PAUSE AT THE SIGHT THAT GREETS THEM~THE LEGENDARY PHANTOM~~!
THEN WADE IN~TO LEARN WHAT THEY'VE ALWAYS HEARD IS TRUE!
UH~~
UMPH~
HE FIGHTS SILENTLY, TIRELESSLY, HIS IRON FIST DARTING FROM JAW TO JAW~
COPR. 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.
BUT THE ODDS FINALLY TELL. HE GOES DOWN UNDER THEIR SHEER WEIGHT~~
9-10
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED

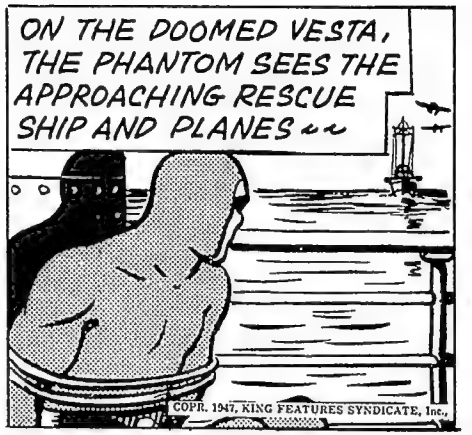

WOW~ WHAT A FIGHT HE PUT UP!
WHATEVER HE IS~~ ONE THING'S SURE~ HE'S A MAN!
9-11
TO THINK~ HE'S BEEN ON THIS SHIP ALL THIS TIME~~!
JINXING US~~ EVERY MINUTE~
HERE'S OUR MISSING SHARES O'LOOT~~
HE HAD'EM HID UP HERE~~
COPR. 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.
OKAY~ LET'S TAKE OFF! HOW ABOUT HIM?
HE GOES DOWN WITH THE SHIP!
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED


COME TO, EH? CLEVER OF YOU, TAKING THOSE SHARES SO THE MEN WOULDN'T LEAVE THE SHIP~HOLDING US HERE~~
9-12
BUT YOUR PLAN DIDN'T WORK. WE HAVEN'T BEEN SPOTTED YET~ WE'RE LEAVING NOW~~
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
PLANTING DYNAMITE~ALL OVER THE SHIP! WE'RE SINKING THIS TUB RIGHT TO THE BOTTOM.
COPR. 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.
IN TEN MINUTES, THERE WON'T BE A TRACE OF THE "VESTA"~OR ANYTHING ON IT!
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED
THE DYNAMITE'S SET, FROM THE KEEL TO THE BRIDGE, PATCH.
FIRE THE FUSES WHEN I SIGNAL YOU.
OKAY!
THE FUSES ARE LIGHTED! WE'VE GOT TEN MINUTES TO GET CLEAR!
COPR. 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED
9-13


THE VESTA PIRATES ROW HARD TO GET CLEAR OF THE DOOMED YACHT--
FASTER~FASTER! TWO MINUTES GONE!
THE PHANTOM IS LEFT ABOARD THE VESTA~~
I'VE GOT TO GET LOOSE ~THIS IS NO WAY TO GO~TO EXPLODE LIKE A FIRECRACKER!
COPR. 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.,
NO~~USE~! CAN'T BREAK THESE ROPES~THAT FUSE IS BURNING SHORTER~AND SHORTER!
9-15
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED.
FIVE MINUTES TO GO BEFORE SHE BLOWS~GET MORE DISTANCE! WHERE'S KERRY?
IN ANOTHER BOAT, I GUESS.
THE MEN ROW HARD TO CLEAR THE DOOMED YACHT~~
WE'RE MAKING IT! WE'RE OKAY!
FOUR MORE MINUTES~ HUH~~?
LOOK~TO THE WEST~!
COPR. 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.,
THE DESTROYER AND NAVAL PLANES SPEED TOWARD THE DESPERATE VESTA CREW AND THEIR DOOMED SHIP~!
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED.
9-16

THAT'S THE VESTA PIRATE, SIR.
THEY'VE ABANDONED THE CRAFT~~

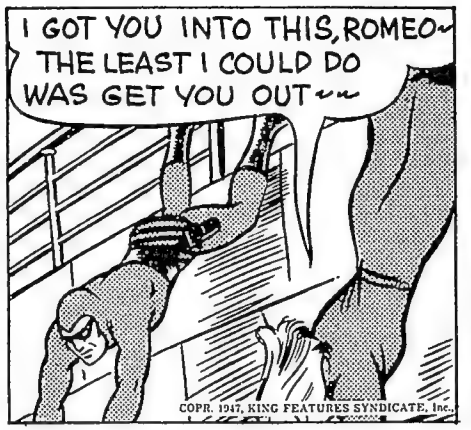
THEY SPOTTED US! WHAT CAN WE DO, PATCH?
DO~DO? WHAT IS THERE TO DO? NOTHING!


ON THE DOOMED VESTA, THE PHANTOM SEES THE APPROACHING RESCUE SHIP AND PLANES~~
COPR. 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.,

THEY'RE IN TIME TO NAB THE PIRATE GANG~BUT NOT IN TIME TO STOP THIS DYNAMITE~~
9-17
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED.

KERRY!
I WAITED~UNTIL THEY WERE FAR ENOUGH AWAY NOT TO SEE ME AND SHOOT AT ME~~
9-18

WE'VE GOT HALF A MINUTE TO GET OFF~THERE'S DYNAMITE ALL OVER THE SHIP!
WHY DID YOU WAIT TO HELP ME?


I GOT YOU INTO THIS, ROMEO~ THE LEAST I COULD DO WAS GET YOU OUT~~
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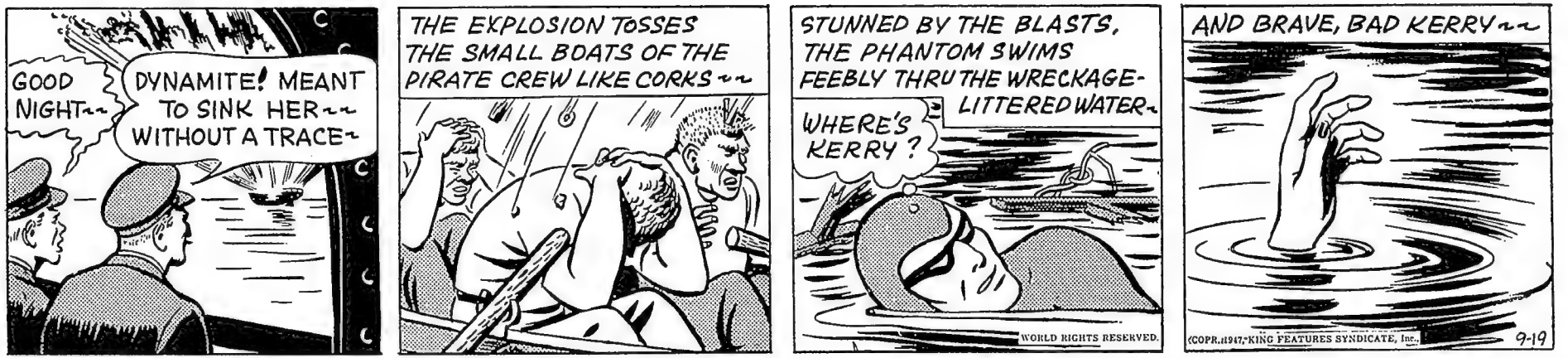
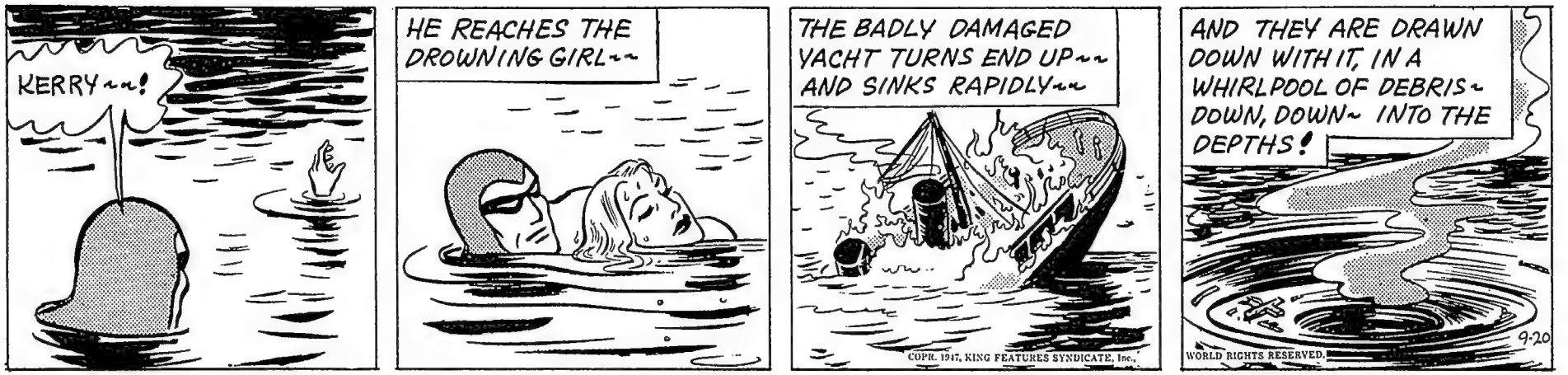
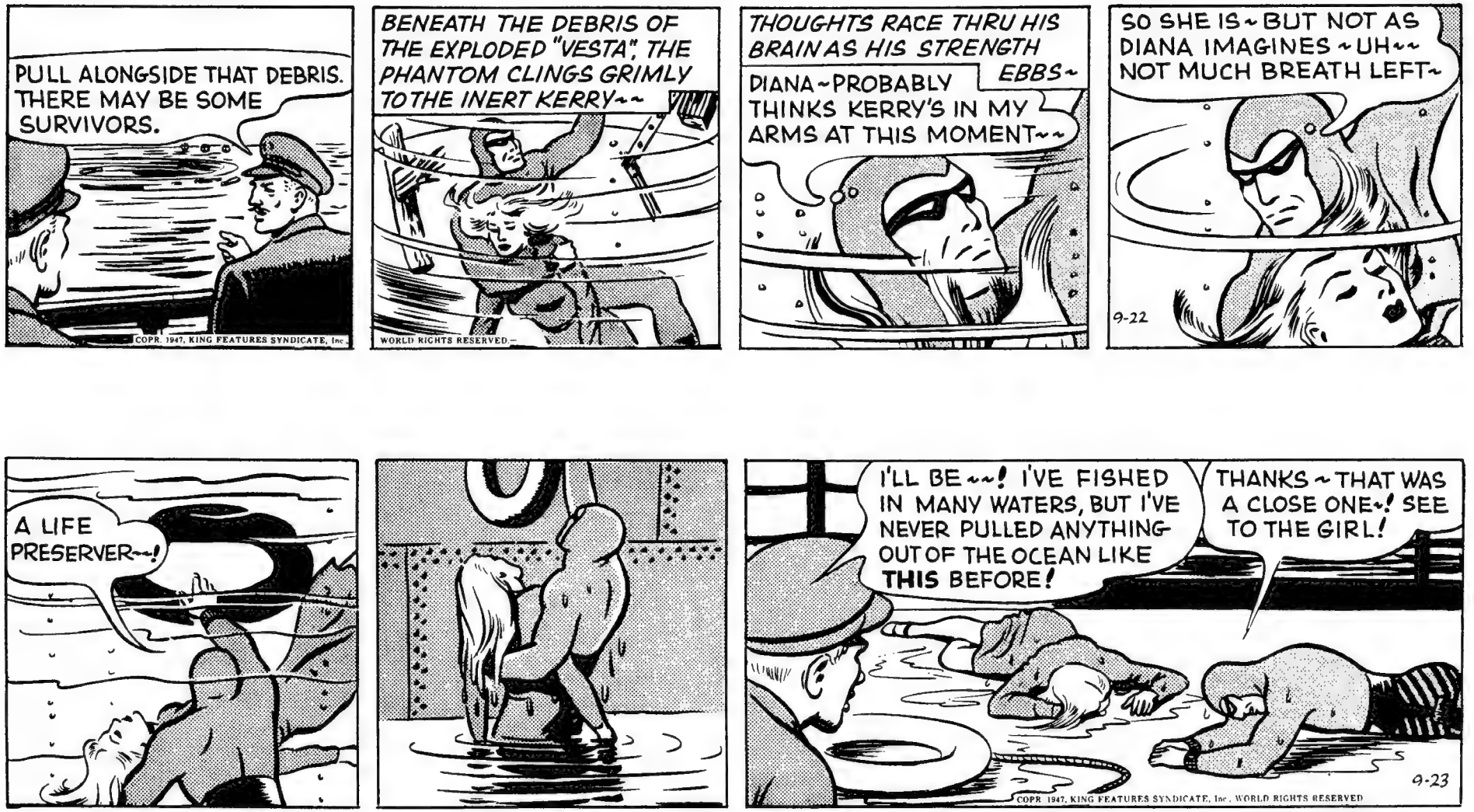
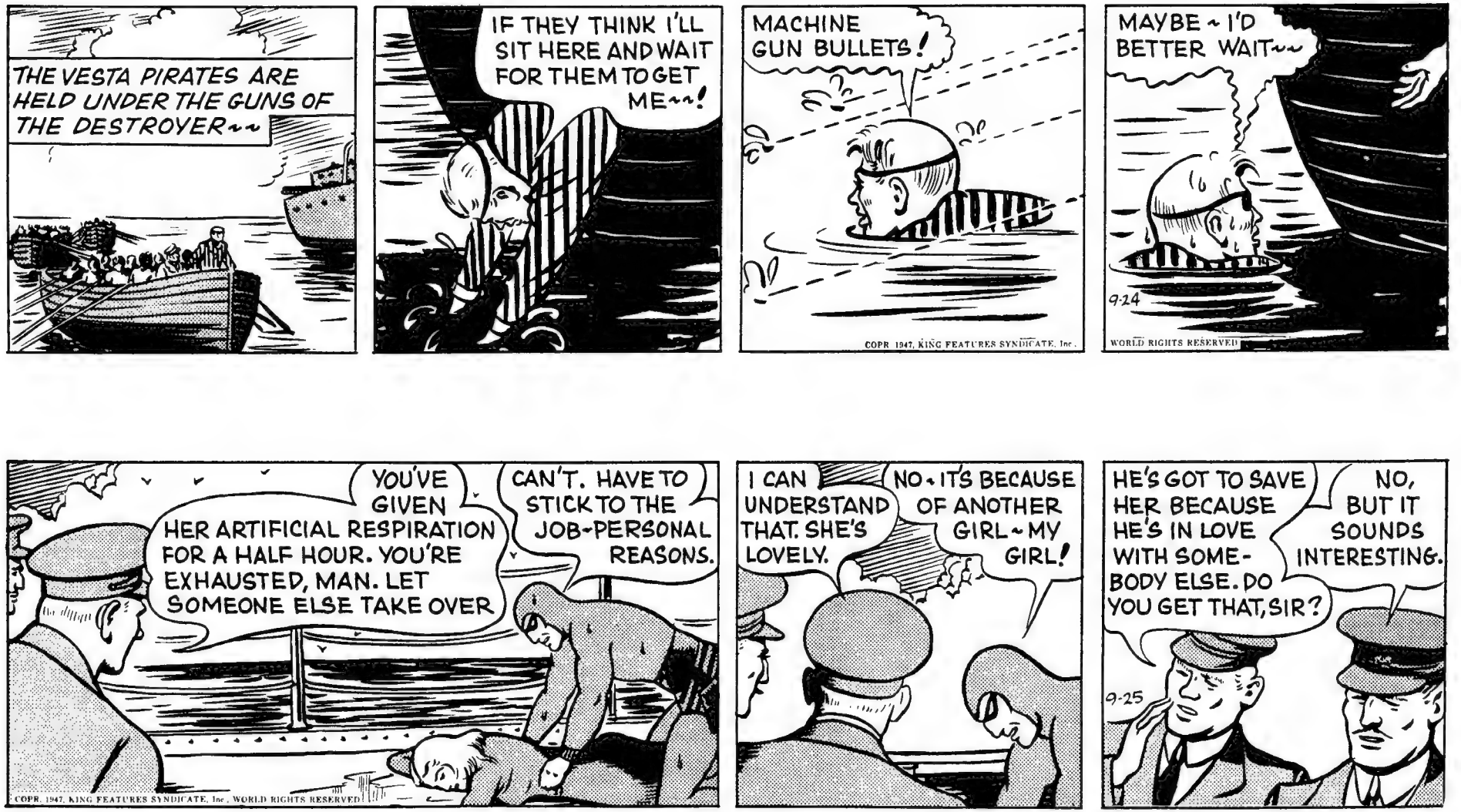
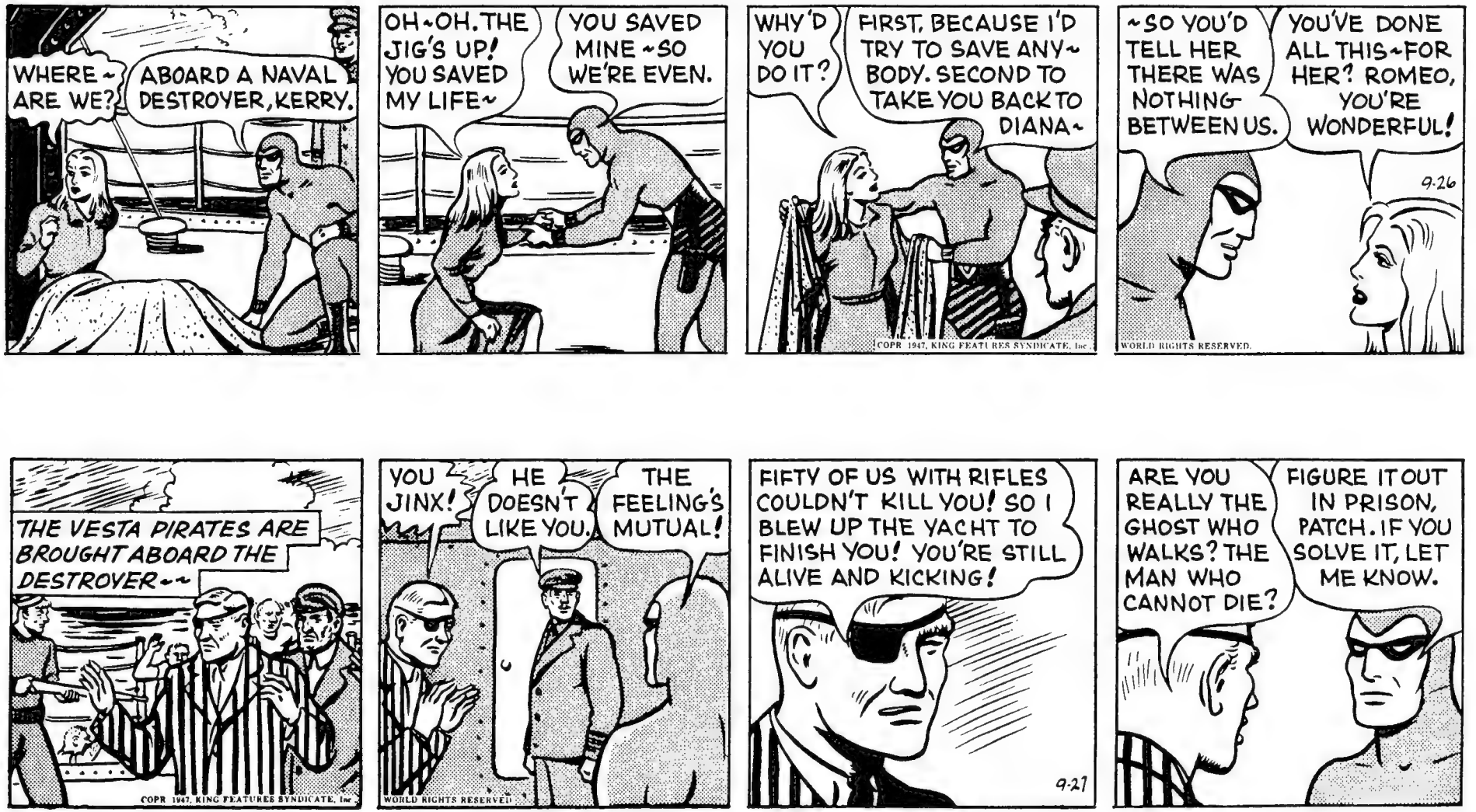
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED.

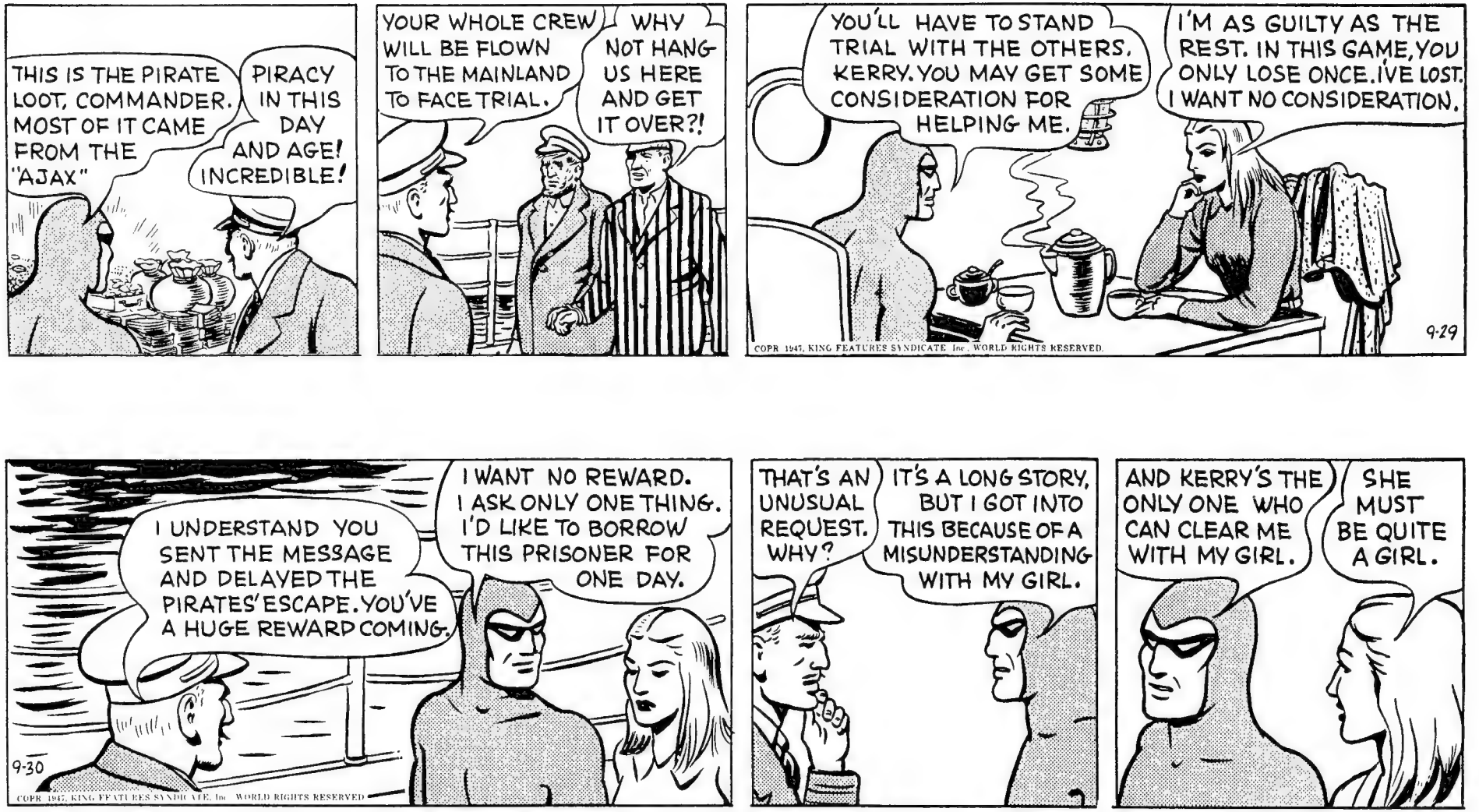

GOOD NIGHT~~
DYNAMITE! MEANT TO SINK HER~~ WITHOUT A TRACE~
THE EXPLOSION TOSSES THE SMALL BOATS OF THE PIRATE CREW LIKE CORKS~~
STUNNED BY THE BLASTS, THE PHANTOM SWIMS FEEBLY THRU THE WRECKAGE-LITTERED WATER~
WHERE'S KERRY?
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED.
AND BRAVE, BAD KERRY~~
(COPR. 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.,
9-19


KERRY~~!
HE REACHES THE DROWNING GIRL~~
THE BADLY DAMAGED YACHT TURNS END UP~~ AND SINKS RAPIDLY~~
COPR. 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.,
AND THEY ARE DRAWN DOWN WITH IT, IN A WHIRLPOOL OF DEBRIS~ DOWN, DOWN~ INTO THE DEPTHS!
9-20
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED.

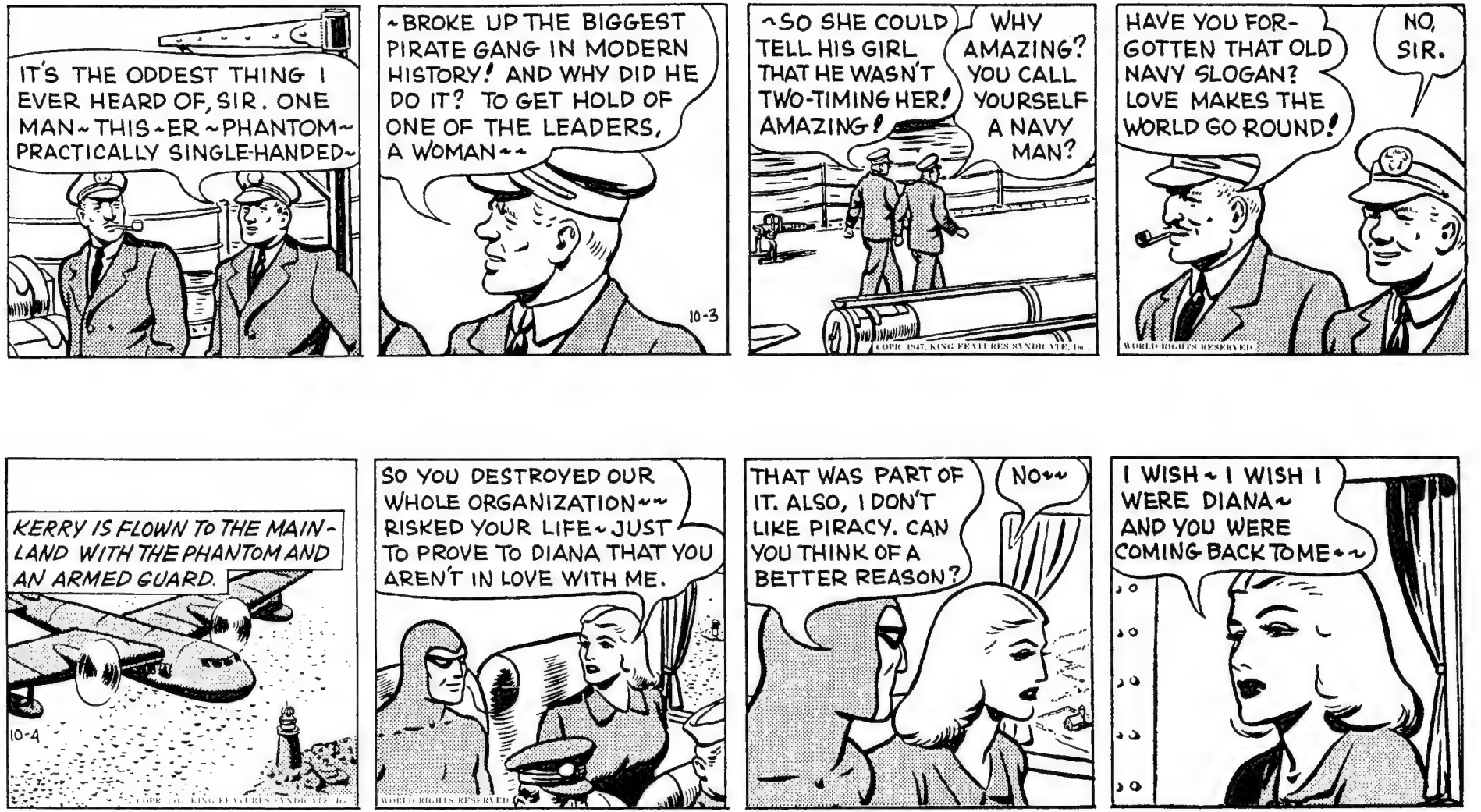

PULL ALONGSIDE THAT DEBRIS. THERE MAY BE SOME SURVIVORS.
COPR. 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.
BENEATH THE DEBRIS OF THE EXPLODED "VESTA", THE PHANTOM CLINGS GRIMLY TO THE INERT KERRY~~
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED.
THOUGHTS RACE THRU HIS BRAIN AS HIS STRENGTH EBBS~
DIANA~PROBABLY THINKS KERRY'S IN MY ARMS AT THIS MOMENT~~
SO SHE IS~BUT NOT AS DIANA IMAGINES~UH~~ NOT MUCH BREATH LEFT~
9-22
A LIFE PRESERVER~~!
I'LL BE~~! I'VE FISHED IN MANY WATERS, BUT I'VE NEVER PULLED ANYTHING OUT OF THE OCEAN LIKE THIS BEFORE!
THANKS~THAT WAS A CLOSE ONE~! SEE TO THE GIRL!
9-23
COPR. 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc., WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED

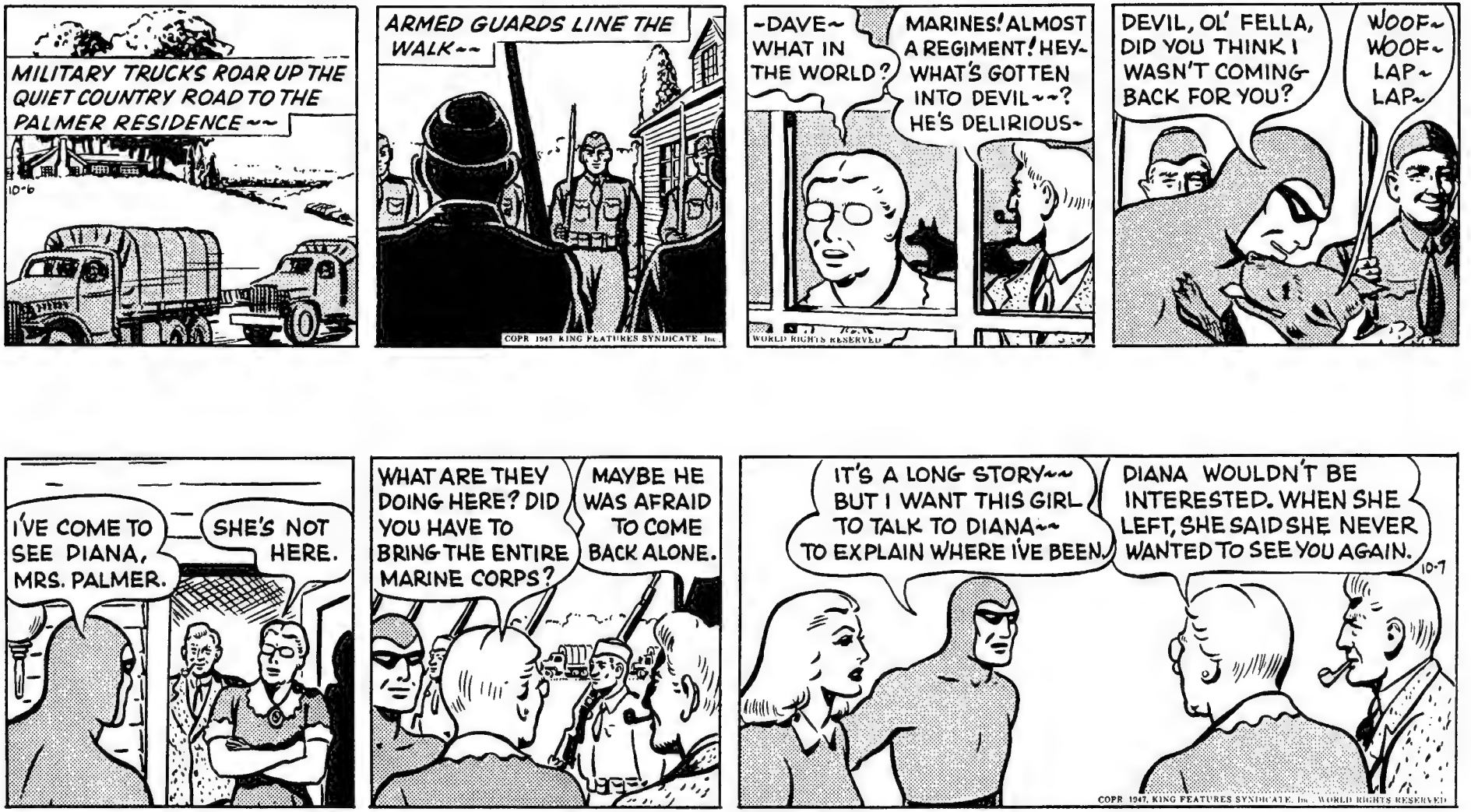

THE VESTA PIRATES ARE HELD UNDER THE GUNS OF THE DESTROYER~~
IF THEY THINK I'LL SIT HERE AND WAIT FOR THEM TO GET ME~~!
MACHINE GUN BULLETS!
COPR 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.
MAYBE ~ I'D BETTER WAIT~~
9-24
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED
YOU'VE GIVEN HER ARTIFICIAL RESPIRATION FOR A HALF HOUR. YOU'RE EXHAUSTED, MAN. LET SOMEONE ELSE TAKE OVER
CAN'T. HAVE TO STICK TO THE JOB-PERSONAL REASONS.
COPR. 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc., WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED
I CAN UNDERSTAND THAT. SHE'S LOVELY.
NO ~ IT'S BECAUSE OF ANOTHER GIRL ~ MY GIRL!
HE'S GOT TO SAVE HER BECAUSE HE'S IN LOVE WITH SOME-BODY ELSE. DO YOU GET THAT, SIR?
NO, BUT IT SOUNDS INTERESTING.
9-25

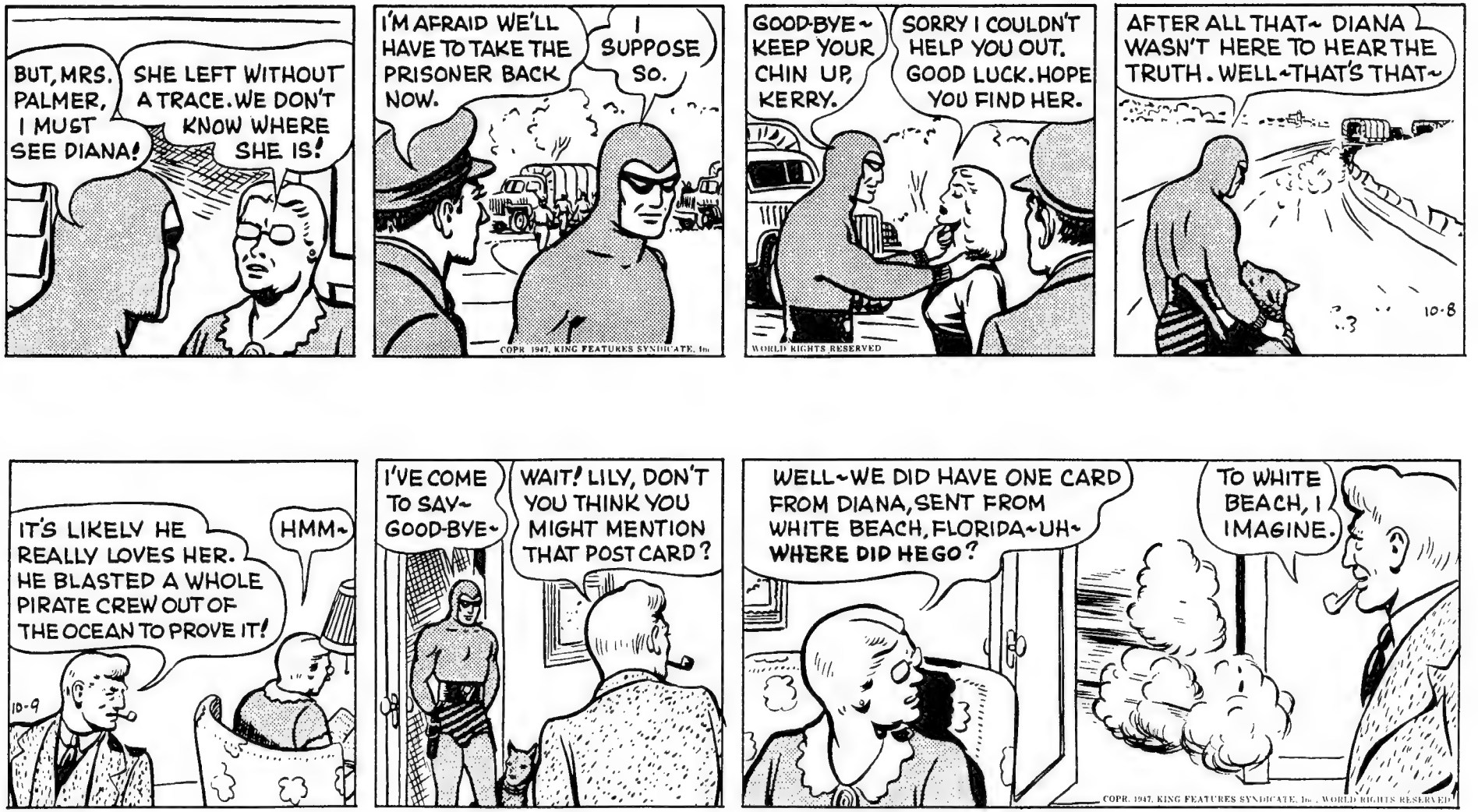

WHERE ~ ARE WE?
ABOARD A NAVAL DESTROYER, KERRY.
OH ~ OH. THE JIG'S UP! YOU SAVED MY LIFE ~
YOU SAVED MINE ~ SO WE'RE EVEN.
WHY'D YOU DO IT?
FIRST, BECAUSE I'D TRY TO SAVE ANY~ BODY. SECOND TO TAKE YOU BACK TO DIANA ~
COPR 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.
~ SO YOU'D TELL HER THERE WAS NOTHING BETWEEN US.
YOU'VE DONE ALL THIS ~ FOR HER? ROMEO, YOU'RE WONDERFUL!
9-26
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED.
THE VESTA PIRATES ARE BROUGHT ABOARD THE DESTROYER ~ ~
COPR 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.
YOU JINX!
HE DOESN'T LIKE YOU.
THE FEELING'S MUTUAL!
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED.
FIFTY OF US WITH RIFLES COULDN'T KILL YOU! SO I BLEW UP THE YACHT TO FINISH YOU! YOU'RE STILL ALIVE AND KICKING!
9-27
ARE YOU REALLY THE GHOST WHO WALKS? THE MAN WHO CANNOT DIE?
FIGURE IT OUT IN PRISON, PATCH. IF YOU SOLVE IT, LET ME KNOW.


THIS IS THE PIRATE LOOT, COMMANDER. MOST OF IT CAME FROM THE "AJAX"
PIRACY IN THIS DAY AND AGE! INCREDIBLE!
YOUR WHOLE CREW WILL BE FLOWN TO THE MAINLAND TO FACE TRIAL.
WHY NOT HANG US HERE AND GET IT OVER?!
YOU'LL HAVE TO STAND TRIAL WITH THE OTHERS, KERRY. YOU MAY GET SOME CONSIDERATION FOR HELPING ME.
I'M AS GUILTY AS THE REST. IN THIS GAME, YOU ONLY LOSE ONCE. I'VE LOST. I WANT NO CONSIDERATION.
9-29
COPR 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE Inc. WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED.
I UNDERSTAND YOU SENT THE MESSAGE AND DELAYED THE PIRATES' ESCAPE. YOU'VE A HUGE REWARD COMING.
I WANT NO REWARD. I ASK ONLY ONE THING. I'D LIKE TO BORROW THIS PRISONER FOR ONE DAY.
9-30
COPR 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc. WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED
THAT'S AN UNUSUAL REQUEST. WHY?
IT'S A LONG STORY, BUT I GOT INTO THIS BECAUSE OF A MISUNDERSTANDING WITH MY GIRL.
AND KERRY'S THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN CLEAR ME WITH MY GIRL.
SHE MUST BE QUITE A GIRL.

THE CAPTURED PIRATES, ALL EXCEPT ONE, ARE FLOWN TO THE MAINLAND TO STAND TRIAL.
WE FEEL THAT WE OWE YOU A GREAT DEAL. YOU SIMPLIFIED OUR TASK IN RIDDING THE SEA OF THE "VESTA" PIRATES.
WE'VE DECIDED TO LET YOU TAKE THIS PRISONER AND AN ARMED GUARD ~ "TO CLEAR UP THINGS" WITH YOUR GIRL, AS YOU EXPLAINED.
IT'S NOT ONLY THAT WE OWE YOU A LOT. THE NAVY HAS A HIGH REGARD FOR ROMANCE AND BELIEVES IT SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED.
10-1
GUESS THIS IS MY LAST LOOK AT THE SEA~
JUST A MINUTE, ER, SIR. I HAVE TO WRITE A REPORT ON ALL THIS ~ AND YOUR PART IN IT.
WELL?
I MEAN, I CAN'T REPORT THAT A PHANTOM RADIOED US AND KEPT THE PIRATES FROM ESCAPING! H.Q. WILL THINK I'M TIGHT.
10-2
I SEE YOUR POINT— BUT THAT'S YOUR PROBLEM. I'VE GOT PLENTY OF MY OWN. SO LONG.


IT'S THE ODDEST THING I EVER HEARD OF, SIR. ONE MAN~THIS~ER~PHANTOM~ PRACTICALLY SINGLE-HANDED~
~BROKE UP THE BIGGEST PIRATE GANG IN MODERN HISTORY! AND WHY DID HE DO IT? TO GET HOLD OF ONE OF THE LEADERS, A WOMAN~~
10-3
~SO SHE COULD TELL HIS GIRL THAT HE WASN'T TWO-TIMING HER! AMAZING!
WHY AMAZING? YOU CALL YOURSELF A NAVY MAN?
COPR. 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.
HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN THAT OLD NAVY SLOGAN? LOVE MAKES THE WORLD GO ROUND!
NO, SIR.
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED
KERRY IS FLOWN TO THE MAINLAND WITH THE PHANTOM AND AN ARMED GUARD.
10-4
COPR. 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.
SO YOU DESTROYED OUR WHOLE ORGANIZATION~~ RISKED YOUR LIFE~JUST TO PROVE TO DIANA THAT YOU AREN'T IN LOVE WITH ME.
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED
THAT WAS PART OF IT. ALSO, I DON'T LIKE PIRACY. CAN YOU THINK OF A BETTER REASON?
NO~~
I WISH~I WISH I WERE DIANA~ AND YOU WERE COMING BACK TO ME~~


MILITARY TRUCKS ROAR UP THE QUIET COUNTRY ROAD TO THE PALMER RESIDENCE~~
10-6
ARMED GUARDS LINE THE WALK~~
COPR 1947 KING FEATURES SYNDICATE Inc.
~DAVE~ WHAT IN THE WORLD?
MARINES! ALMOST A REGIMENT! HEY~ WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO DEVIL~~? HE'S DELIRIOUS~
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED
DEVIL, OL' FELLA, DID YOU THINK I WASN'T COMING BACK FOR YOU?
WOOF~ WOOF~ LAP~ LAP~
I'VE COME TO SEE DIANA, MRS. PALMER.
SHE'S NOT HERE.
WHAT ARE THEY DOING HERE? DID YOU HAVE TO BRING THE ENTIRE MARINE CORPS?
MAYBE HE WAS AFRAID TO COME BACK ALONE.
IT'S A LONG STORY~~ BUT I WANT THIS GIRL TO TALK TO DIANA~~ TO EXPLAIN WHERE I'VE BEEN.
DIANA WOULDN'T BE INTERESTED. WHEN SHE LEFT, SHE SAID SHE NEVER WANTED TO SEE YOU AGAIN.
10-7
COPR 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc., WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED


BUT, MRS. PALMER, I MUST SEE DIANA!
SHE LEFT WITHOUT A TRACE. WE DON'T KNOW WHERE SHE IS!
I'M AFRAID WE'LL HAVE TO TAKE THE PRISONER BACK NOW.
I SUPPOSE SO.
COPR. 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.
GOOD-BYE~ KEEP YOUR CHIN UP, KERRY.
SORRY I COULDN'T HELP YOU OUT. GOOD LUCK. HOPE YOU FIND HER.
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED
AFTER ALL THAT~ DIANA WASN'T HERE TO HEAR THE TRUTH. WELL~THAT'S THAT~
10-8
IT'S LIKELY HE REALLY LOVES HER. HE BLASTED A WHOLE PIRATE CREW OUT OF THE OCEAN TO PROVE IT!
HMM~
10-9
I'VE COME TO SAY~ GOOD-BYE~
WAIT! LILY, DON'T YOU THINK YOU MIGHT MENTION THAT POST CARD?
WELL~WE DID HAVE ONE CARD FROM DIANA, SENT FROM WHITE BEACH, FLORIDA~UH~ WHERE DID HE GO?
TO WHITE BEACH, I IMAGINE.
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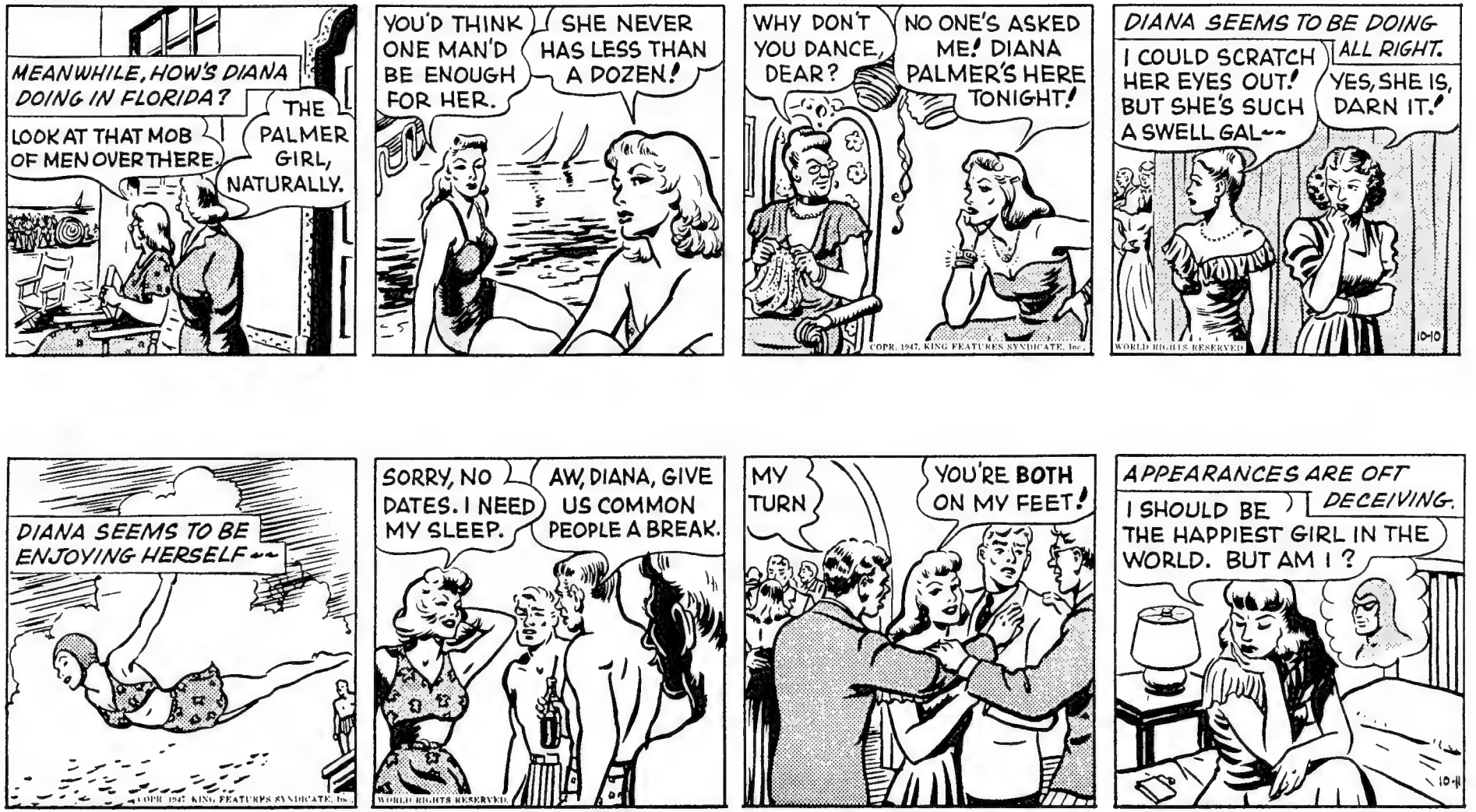

MEANWHILE, HOW'S DIANA DOING IN FLORIDA?
LOOK AT THAT MOB OF MEN OVER THERE.
THE PALMER GIRL, NATURALLY.
YOU'D THINK ONE MAN'D BE ENOUGH FOR HER.
SHE NEVER HAS LESS THAN A DOZEN!
WHY DON'T YOU DANCE, DEAR?
NO ONE'S ASKED ME! DIANA PALMER'S HERE TONIGHT!
COPR. 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.
DIANA SEEMS TO BE DOING ALL RIGHT.
I COULD SCRATCH HER EYES OUT! BUT SHE'S SUCH A SWELL GAL--
YES, SHE IS, DARN IT!
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED
10-10
DIANA SEEMS TO BE ENJOYING HERSELF--
COPR. 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.
SORRY, NO DATES. I NEED MY SLEEP.
AW, DIANA, GIVE US COMMON PEOPLE A BREAK.
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED
MY TURN
YOU'RE BOTH ON MY FEET!
APPEARANCES ARE OFT DECEIVING.
I SHOULD BE THE HAPPIEST GIRL IN THE WORLD. BUT AM I?
10-11

YOUNG MATT IS SIMPLY THROWING HIMSELF AT THAT PALMER GIRL.
IMAGINE! HIM!

DIANA, YOU MUST LIKE ONE OF US THE BEST~~
PLAY THE FIELD-THAT'S MY MOTTO. SAFETY IN NUMBERS!

HEY, MATT~ TAKE IT EASY!
BREAK IT UP! SHE'S HERE TO GET SUNSHINE!
COPR 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.

HAD TO SHANGHAI YOU, DARLING. ONLY WAY I COULD GET A MINUTE ALONE WITH YOU.
10-13
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED

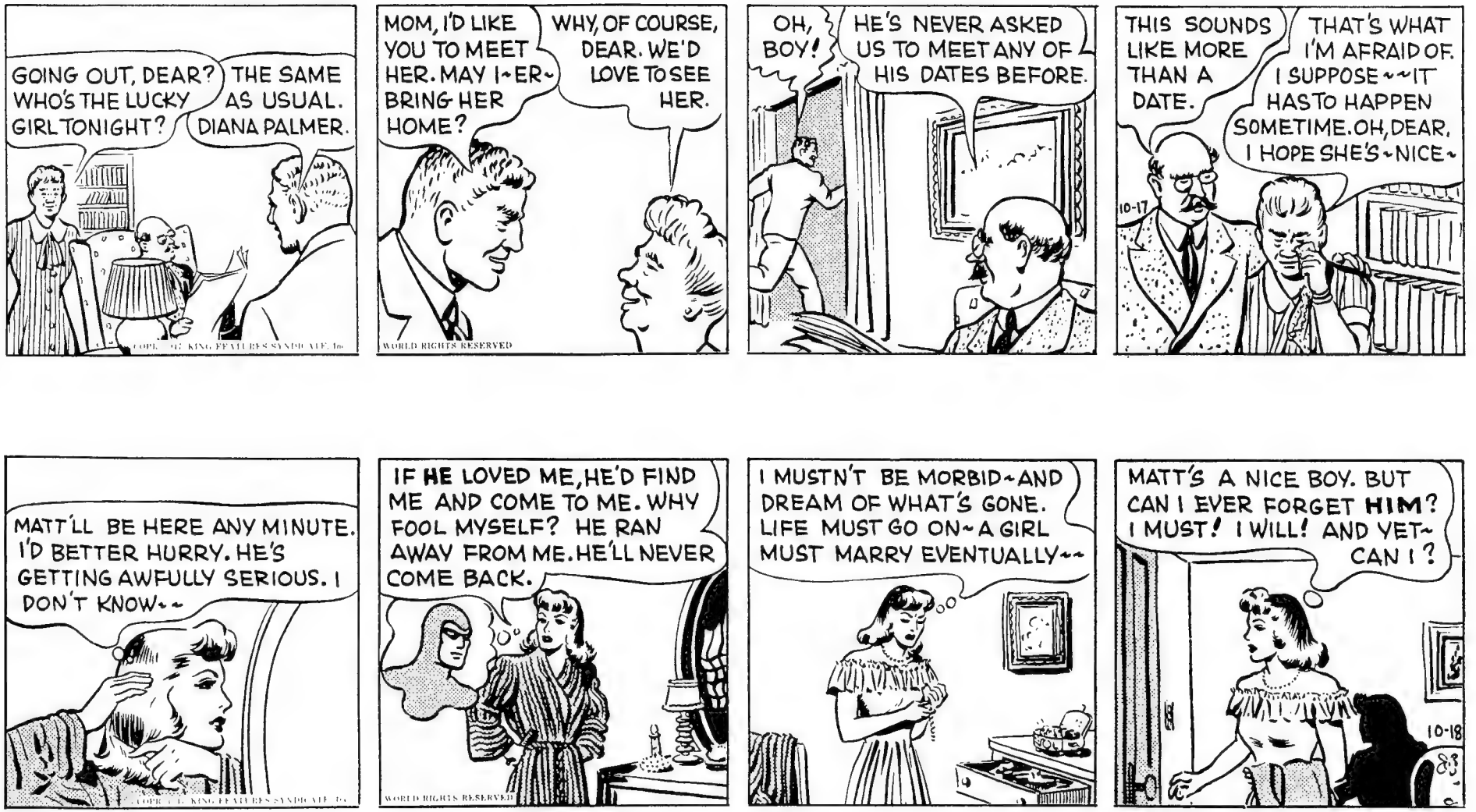
IT'S NOT EASY, BEING THE ONLY SON OF THE RICHEST MAN IN THE WORLD.
POOR MATT. MY HEART BLEEDS FOR YOU.

I KNOW THAT SOUNDED SILLY, BUT EVERYONE I MEET IS EITHER AFTER MY MONEY-OR THEY DON'T TAKE ME SERIOUSLY.
TSK~ TSK~
COPR 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.

I NEVER CARED ABOUT THE LATTER-UNTIL I MET YOU~~
LET'S KEEP IT LIGHT, MATT.
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED

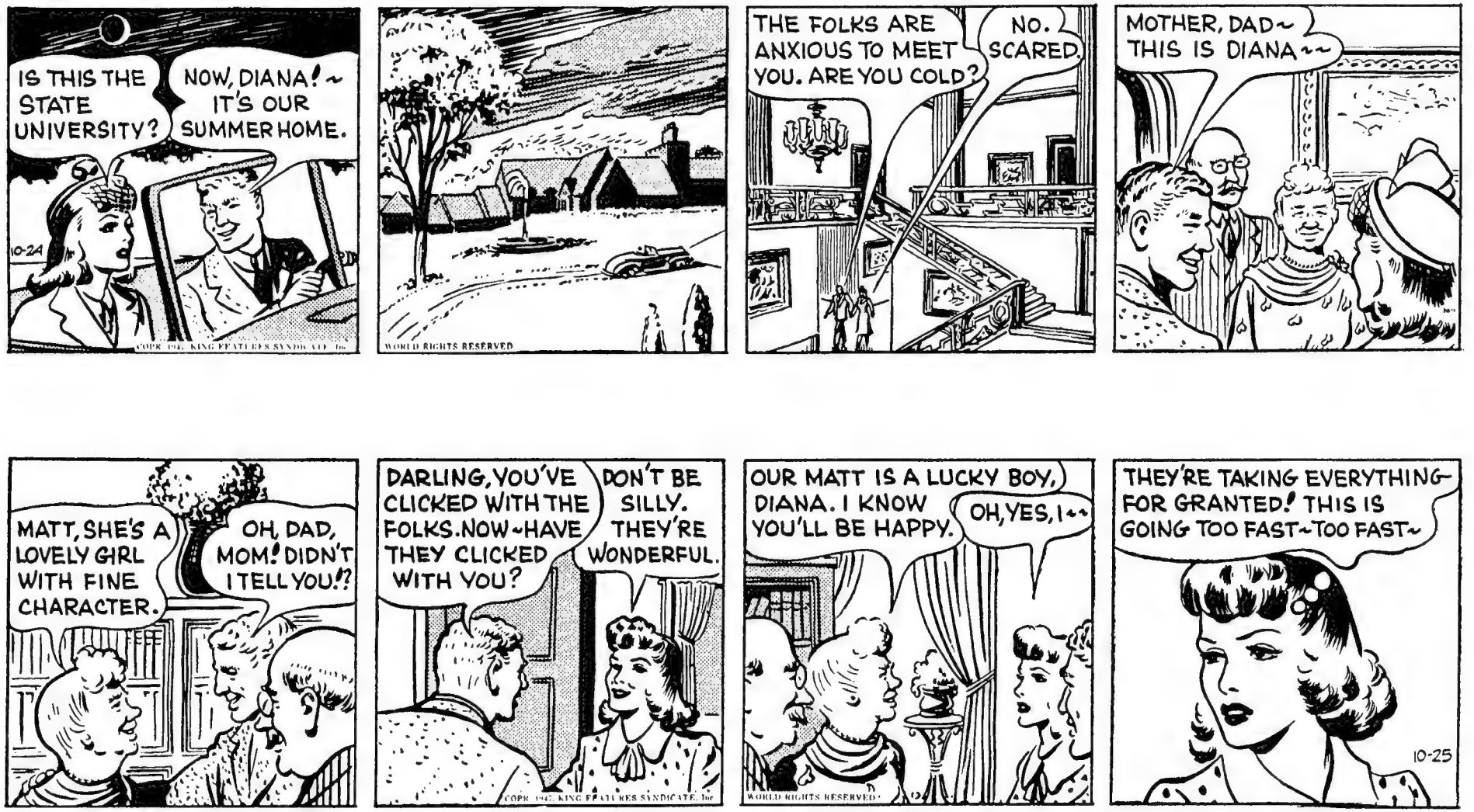
PLEASE BE SERIOUS, DIANA. I'M CRAZY ABOUT YOU. YOU'RE ALL I CAN THINK ABOUT.
10-14

MATT DOESN'T EVEN LOOK AT ANY OTHER GIRL ANY MORE.
HE'S GOT IT BAD!
DIANA, I LOVE YOU~ I ADORE YOU.
LET'S TALK ABOUT SOMETHING ELSE. THE WEATHER. DO YOU LIKE WEATHER?
HOW ABOUT HIGHER EDUCATION? DO YOU THINK IT'S GETTING TOO HIGH?
PLEASE TAKE ME SERIOUSLY FOR A MOMENT!
COPR 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.
IS THERE SOMEONE ELSE, DIANA?
I THOUGHT THERE WAS. NO, MATT, I GUESS NOT~~
10-15
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED.
THE SAME GIRL AGAIN TONIGHT, MISTER MATT?
WHO ELSE?
REEVES, SHE'S WONDERFUL! SHE'S A DREAM! SHE'S OUT OF THIS WORLD.
SOUNDS AS IF YOU LIKE HER, SIR.
WHAT DOES THIS SOUND LIKE? I'M GOING TO MARRY HER!
WOW, MISTER MATT! WHAT'LL YOUR PARENTS SAY?
COPR 1947 KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.
I'M GOING TO FIND OUT. BUT THE MAIN THING IS, WHAT'LL SHE SAY?
10-16
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED.


GOING OUT, DEAR? WHO'S THE LUCKY GIRL TONIGHT?
THE SAME AS USUAL. DIANA PALMER.
MOM, I'D LIKE YOU TO MEET HER. MAY I~ER~ BRING HER HOME?
WHY, OF COURSE, DEAR. WE'D LOVE TO SEE HER.
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED
OH, BOY!
HE'S NEVER ASKED US TO MEET ANY OF HIS DATES BEFORE.
THIS SOUNDS LIKE MORE THAN A DATE.
THAT'S WHAT I'M AFRAID OF. I SUPPOSE~~IT HAS TO HAPPEN SOMETIME. OH, DEAR, I HOPE SHE'S~NICE~
10-17
MATT'LL BE HERE ANY MINUTE. I'D BETTER HURRY. HE'S GETTING AWFULLY SERIOUS. I DON'T KNOW~~
IF HE LOVED ME, HE'D FIND ME AND COME TO ME. WHY FOOL MYSELF? HE RAN AWAY FROM ME. HE'LL NEVER COME BACK.
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED
I MUSTN'T BE MORBID~AND DREAM OF WHAT'S GONE. LIFE MUST GO ON~A GIRL MUST MARRY EVENTUALLY~~
MATT'S A NICE BOY. BUT CAN I EVER FORGET HIM? I MUST! I WILL! AND YET~ CAN I?
10-18

THAT WAS A LOVELY PARTY, MATT
WONDERFUL NIGHT. HOW ABOUT A WALK ON THE BEACH?
10-20
COPR. 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.
OHH~ HIGH HEELS AND SAND DON'T MIX.
DARLING, I CAME HERE TO DISCUSS ROMANCE ~NOT FOOTWEAR. BE SERIOUS!
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED
WE'VE HAD GOOD TIMES TOGETHER. WHY SHOULD WE PRETEND TO BE SERIOUS?
PRETEND?
HOW ABOUT THIS? I WANT TO MARRY YOU, DIANA.
MATT~~
DIANA, PLEASE SAY "YES". I'VE NEVER ASKED ANYONE TO MARRY ME, BEFORE~
MATT~YOU'RE A WONDERFUL BOY~ANY GIRL WOULD BE LUCKY TO~~
I TAKE IT THAT MEANS YES. DIANA, DARLING~~
I~ GUESS~I~
COPR. 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED
DIANA!
10-21

DIANA ~~ WAIT!
COPR 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.
WHY DID YOU RUN LIKE A FRIGHTENED DEER? I ASKED YOU TO MARRY ME ~ IS THAT SO HORRIBLE?
OH, NO ~~
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED
I PROMISED MOTHER AND DAD I'D BRING YOU TO MEET THEM. WILL YOU COME?
OF COURSE.
AND WILL YOU MARRY ME?
I~I'D LOVE TO MEET YOUR PARENTS ~~
10-22
DIANA'S COMING FOR DINNER TONIGHT!
MATT, YOUR MOTHER AND I WANT TO HAVE A CHAT WITH YOU~ABOUT HER.
YOU KNOW WE'RE NOT SNOBS. HOWEVER, AS MY SON, YOU ARE SOLE HEIR TO ONE OF THE WORLD'S GREAT FORTUNES. BECAUSE OF THAT ~~
~YOU HAVE UNUSUAL RESPONSIBILITIES. YOUR SELECTION OF A WIFE IS IMPORTANT. NOW~ THIS GIRL ~~
I KNOW ALL THAT, DAD.
COPR 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.
DIANA IS SUPER-WONDERFUL! YOU'LL LOVE HER!
I HOPE SO, DEAR.
10-23
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED

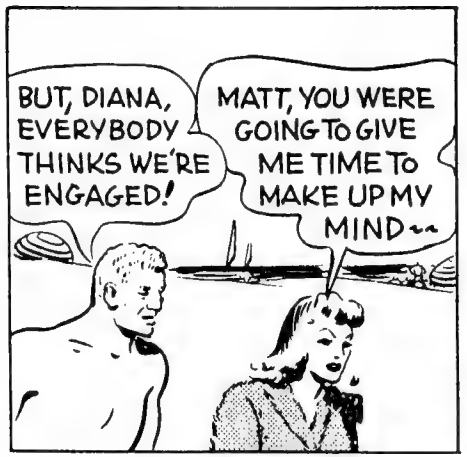

IS THIS THE STATE UNIVERSITY?
NOW, DIANA! ~ IT'S OUR SUMMER HOME.
10-24
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED
THE FOLKS ARE ANXIOUS TO MEET YOU. ARE YOU COLD?
NO. SCARED.
MOTHER, DAD~ THIS IS DIANA~~
MATT, SHE'S A LOVELY GIRL WITH FINE CHARACTER.
OH, DAD, MOM! DIDN'T I TELL YOU!?
DARLING, YOU'VE CLICKED WITH THE FOLKS. NOW ~ HAVE THEY CLICKED WITH YOU?
DON'T BE SILLY. THEY'RE WONDERFUL.
OUR MATT IS A LUCKY BOY, DIANA. I KNOW YOU'LL BE HAPPY.
OH, YES, I~~
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED
THEY'RE TAKING EVERYTHING FOR GRANTED! THIS IS GOING TOO FAST ~ TOO FAST~
10-25

Diana Palmer and Matt Malton, heir to oil millions. Their engagement will be announced soon, according to intimates.

DAVE! DIANA --IN THE PAPER! GOING TO BE ENGAGED!
WHAT!
COPR 1947 KING FEATURES SYNDICATE Inc.

CHECK PLANE TICKETS HERE
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED

SEE! US! YOU CAN'T BACK OUT NOW!
EVERYBODY'S PUSHING ME INTO IT! EVEN THE PAPERS!
10-27


BUT, DIANA, EVERYBODY THINKS WE'RE ENGAGED!
MATT, YOU WERE GOING TO GIVE ME TIME TO MAKE UP MY MIND--

DIANA, DARLING! WE READ ABOUT IT IN THE PAPER! WE FLEW RIGHT DOWN!
MAMA! UNCLE DAVE!
COPR 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.

YOU MUST BE MATT. I'M SO HAPPY ABOUT YOU AND DIANA, MY DEAR BOY!
THANK YOU, MRS. PALMER.
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED

IT LOOKS LIKE MY MIND'S BEING MADE UP FOR ME!
10-28

YOU MEAN~ YOU HAVEN'T ACCEPTED MATT?
NOT REALLY. EVERYBODY JUST TAKES IT FOR GRANTED THAT WE'LL MARRY.
COPR. 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.
ANY GIRL WOULD JUMP AT THE CHANCE. MATT'S A FINE BOY! AND HIS FATHER'S ONE OF THE WORLD'S RICHEST MEN!
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED
IF YOU'RE STILL MOONING ABOUT THAT MASKED BARBARIAN WHO LIVES IN CAVES AND RUNS AROUND WITH SAVAGES~DON'T FORGET~~
~HE LEFT YOU IN THE LURCH~ RAN OFF WITH ANOTHER GIRL! IF YOU HAVEN'T ANY SENSE, YOU SHOULD HAVE SOME PRIDE!
HMMM.
10-29
LILY, DON'T YOU THINK DIANA SHOULD KNOW THE TRUTH ABOUT THE PHANTOM?
~THAT HE DIDN'T REALLY DESERT HER~
NO, DAVE. LET WELL ENOUGH ALONE. I KNOW IT SOUNDS CRUEL, BUT~~
COPR. 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.
~SHE HAD TO FORGET THE PHANTOM SOMEDAY! HE BELONGS IN THE JUNGLE! MATT'S A FINE BOY, OF HER OWN CLASS~~
10-30
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED
HIS FATHER'S BEING THE WORLD'S RICHEST MAN HELPS, TOO.
OF COURSE! PROMISE ME YOU WON'T TELL HER ABOUT THE PHANTOM!

DIANA, PROMISE ME YOU'LL SAY "YES" TO MATT TONIGHT.
OH, MAMA, I'M SO TIRED OF FIGHTING YOU AND MATT AND EVERYBODY~~
QUITE A PARTY TONIGHT, MATT.
I HOPE IT'LL BE THE NIGHT, DIANA. LET'S GO OUT INTO THE GARDEN.
COPR 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.
FOR THE UMPTEENTH TIME, PLEASE SAY YOU'LL MARRY ME, DIANA.
I~~I~~ CAN'T~ I ~~ YES~
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED
DIANA! AT LAST!
10-31
LET'S TELL THE GANG WE'RE GETTING MARRIED, DIANA!
NOT RIGHT AWAY. LET ME BE ALONE FOR A FEW MINUTES, PLEASE, MATT.
COPR 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.
I MIGHT AS WELL MARRY MATT. WHY FOOL MYSELF? HE'LL NEVER COME BACK. WAS HE REAL? DID I EVER REALLY KNOW HIM?
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED
EVERY GIRL HAS HER DREAM PRINCE. PERHAPS THE PHANTOM WAS MINE. SOMEONE WONDERFUL AND PERFECT~~ WHOM I ONLY IMAGINED~~
MAYBE HE WAS ONLY A DREAM~THAT DIDN'T COME TRUE~~
11-1

YOU!
DIANA!
11-3
COPR. 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.,
IS IT REALLY YOU--OR AM I IMAGINING THAT I SEE YOU?
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED.
WHAT I READ IN THE PAPER IS TRUE. YOU ARE ENGAGED. DIANA - HOW COULD YOU?
HOW COULD I? YOU WENT AWAY. WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?
IT'S A LONG STORY, DIANA. IT STARTED THE DAY I WENT TO GET A RING FOR YOU~
YOU REMEMBER THE BLONDE GIRL YOU THOUGHT I WAS FLIRTING WITH? I FOLLOWED HER TO HER SHIP~~
YOU ADMIT IT?
11-4
I WANTED HER TO TELL YOU THERE WAS NOTHING BETWEEN US! BUT IT WAS A PIRATE SHIP. SHE WAS ONE OF THE GANG!
THEY TRIED TO KILL ME. I HID ABOARD SHIP, WATCHED THEM MAKE A PIRATE RAID, AND FINALLY HELPED CAPTURE THE WHOLE CROWD.
COPR. 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.,
WHAT A STORY!
DIANA, YOU DON'T BELIEVE ME! IT'S ALL TRUE!
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED.

AFTER I WAITED MONTHS FOR YOU ~ DREAMED ABOUT YOU ~~ REFUSED TO BELIEVE WHAT MAMA OR ANYONE ELSE SAID ABOUT YOU ~~

~REFUSED A FINE BOY LIKE MATT WHO LOVES ME AND WANTS TO MARRY ME~~ REFUSED HIM BECAUSE I COULDN'T FORGET YOU~~

~NOW YOU RETURN~~ WITH A SILLY STORY ABOUT PIRATES THAT A TEN-YEAR-OLD CHILD WOULD KNOW YOU'VE MADE UP! MAMA WAS RIGHT~~
COPR 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.

~YOU'RE JUST AN ADVENTURER! I'M GOING TO MARRY MATT!
11-5
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED.

DIANA~ WHERE'VE YOU BEEN?
MATT~WILL YOU MARRY ME RIGHT AWAY?

WHAT? GEE~BUT WHY~~?
NO QUESTIONS, PLEASE! WILL YOU MARRY ME AT ONCE?

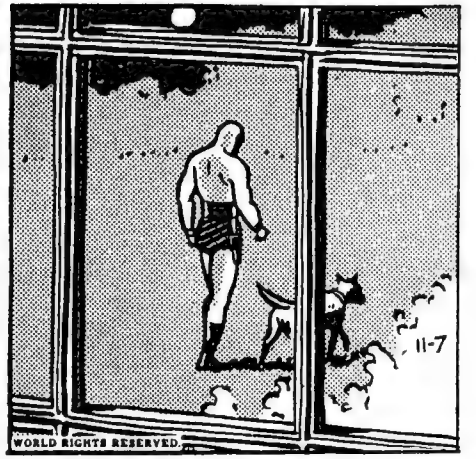
GOLLY-NED!!! OF COURSE! THE LICENSE HAS BEEN BURNING A HOLE IN MY POCKET FOR A WEEK!
COPR. 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.

HEY, PETE, STOP THE MUSIC A MINUTE. I'VE GOT AN IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT!
11-6
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN! YOU ARE ALL INVITED TO OUR WEDDING ~ TOMORROW!

I'M GLAD IT'S SETTLED, MATT. BUT WHAT'S THE RUSH?
I WANT TO MAKE IT LEGAL BEFORE SHE CHANGES HER MIND, DAD!

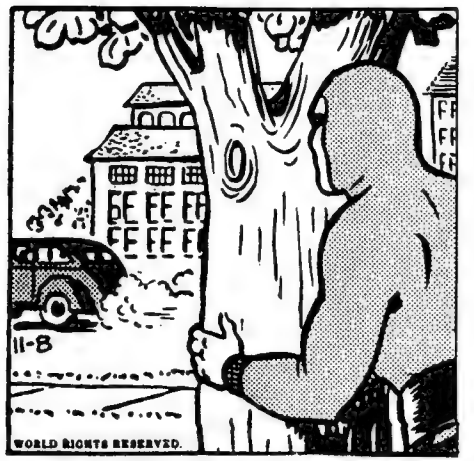
OH, DARLING, I'M SO HAPPY! HE'S A LUCKY BOY, GETTING MY LITTLE LAMBY-DUMPLING.
COPR. 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.

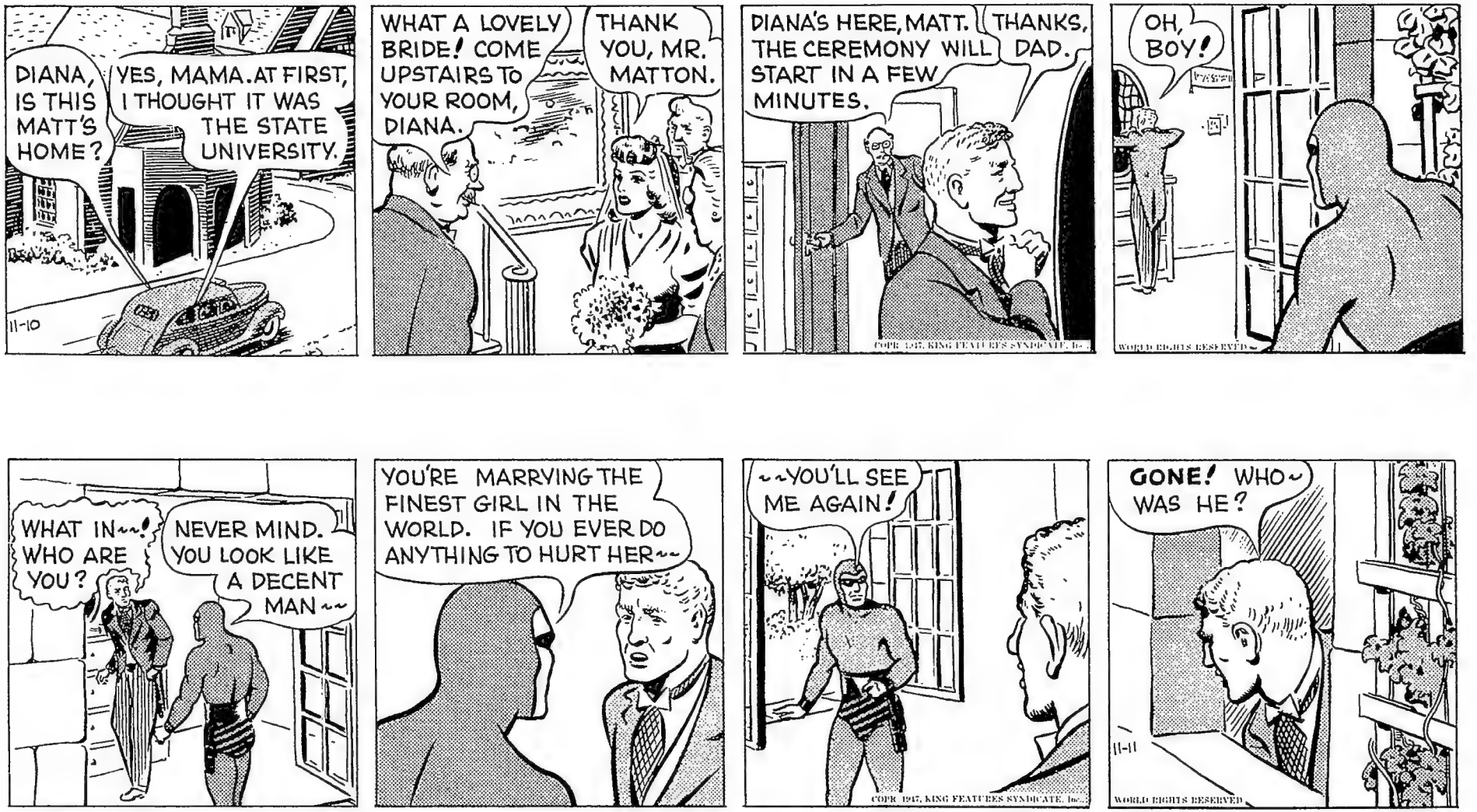

11-7
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED.

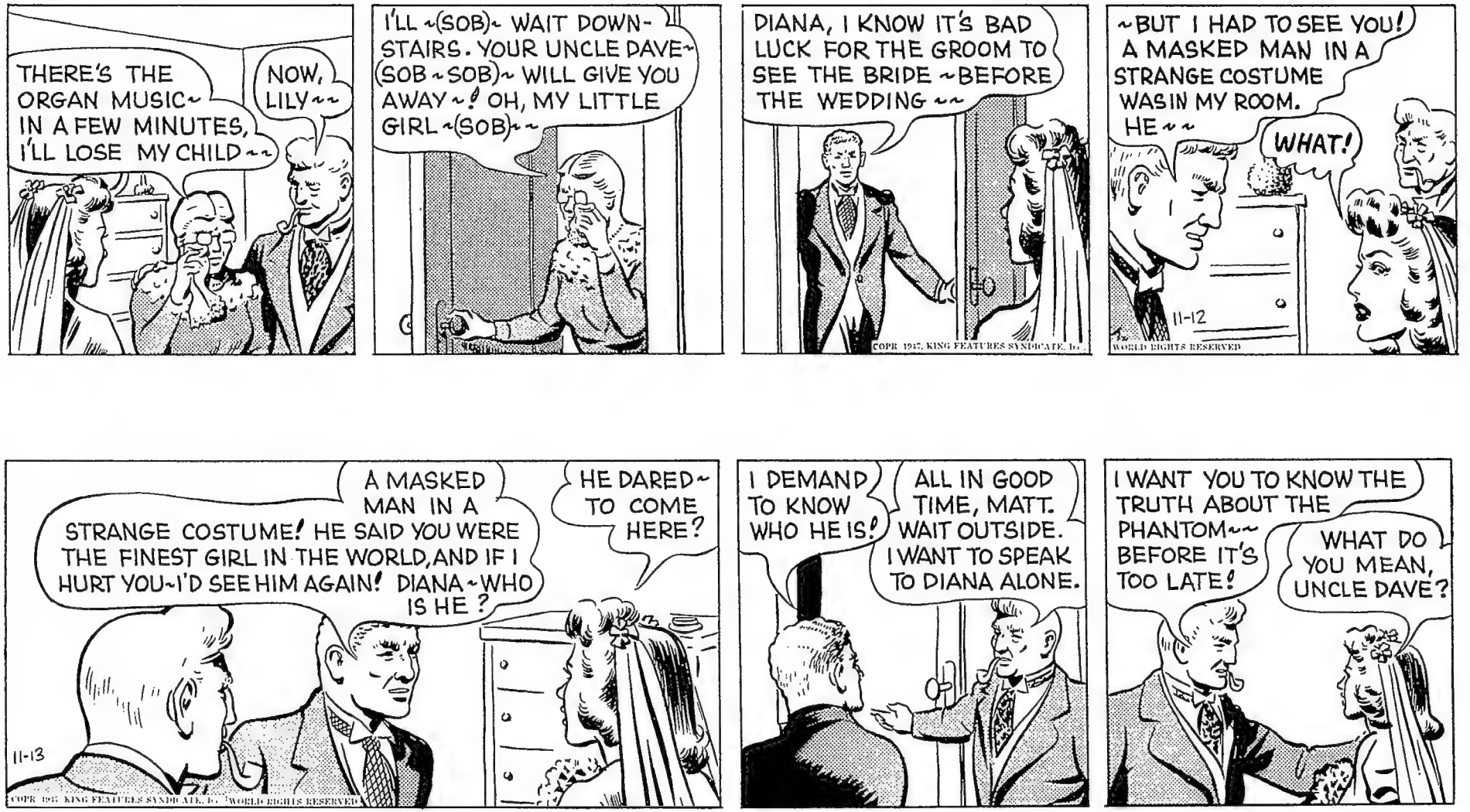
DIANA, DARLING, YOU LOOK RADIANT. ONE MORE PIN, AND YOU'RE ALL READY TO GO!
PLEASE HURRY, MAMA.

HOW LOVELY! BUT SMILE, DIANA. BRIDES ARE SUPPOSED TO BE HAPPY!
I AM, UNCLE DAVE.

THIS IS THE HAPPIEST DAY OF MY LIFE, DAVE. I WAS ALWAYS AFRAID SHE'D SETTLE DOWN IN A CAVE ~ WITH THAT PERSON!
COPR 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.


11-8
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED.


DIANA, IS THIS MATT'S HOME?
YES, MAMA. AT FIRST, I THOUGHT IT WAS THE STATE UNIVERSITY.
11-10
WHAT A LOVELY BRIDE! COME UPSTAIRS TO YOUR ROOM, DIANA.
THANK YOU, MR. MATTON.
DIANA'S HERE, MATT. THE CEREMONY WILL START IN A FEW MINUTES.
THANKS, DAD.
OH, BOY!
WHAT IN~~! WHO ARE YOU?
NEVER MIND. YOU LOOK LIKE A DECENT MAN~~
YOU'RE MARRYING THE FINEST GIRL IN THE WORLD. IF YOU EVER DO ANYTHING TO HURT HER~~
~~YOU'LL SEE ME AGAIN!
GONE! WHO~ WAS HE?
11-11


THERE'S THE ORGAN MUSIC~ IN A FEW MINUTES, I'LL LOSE MY CHILD~~
NOW, LILY~~
I'LL ~(SOB)~ WAIT DOWN-STAIRS. YOUR UNCLE DAVE~ (SOB ~ SOB)~ WILL GIVE YOU AWAY~! OH, MY LITTLE GIRL ~(SOB)~~
DIANA, I KNOW IT'S BAD LUCK FOR THE GROOM TO SEE THE BRIDE ~BEFORE THE WEDDING~~
COPR 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.
~BUT I HAD TO SEE YOU! A MASKED MAN IN A STRANGE COSTUME WAS IN MY ROOM. HE~~
WHAT!
11-12
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED
A MASKED MAN IN A STRANGE COSTUME! HE SAID YOU WERE THE FINEST GIRL IN THE WORLD, AND IF I HURT YOU~I'D SEE HIM AGAIN! DIANA~WHO IS HE?
HE DARED~ TO COME HERE?
11-13
COPR 1947 KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc. WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED
I DEMAND TO KNOW WHO HE IS!
ALL IN GOOD TIME, MATT. WAIT OUTSIDE. I WANT TO SPEAK TO DIANA ALONE.
I WANT YOU TO KNOW THE TRUTH ABOUT THE PHANTOM~~ BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, UNCLE DAVE?

THE PHANTOM TOLD YOU THE TRUTH! HE WAS CAPTURED BY PIRATES!
HOW DO YOU KNOW?
COPR. 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.

I SAW THEM~ IN PRISON! THE WHOLE VICIOUS GANG~THE "VESTA" PIRATES!
I READ ABOUT THEM IN THE PAPER~~
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED

HIS PART WAS HUSHED UP! HE RISKED HIS LIFE TO DESTROY THEM~AND BRING THAT GIRL BACK TO TELL YOU HE WASN'T FLIRTING WITH HER!

HE BROUGHT HER HOME~ BUT YOU WERE GONE!
HE DID ALL THAT~ FOR ME! AND I DIDN'T BELIEVE HIM ~~
11-14

I SAID HORRIBLE THINGS TO HIM~ I MUST FIND HIM ~ HE WAS JUST HERE~

GIVE THEM MY REGRETS! TELL THEM I CAN'T GET MARRIED TODAY~~
COPR. 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.

DIANA ~ WHERE ARE YOU GOING? TELL ME ABOUT THE MASKED MAN LATER! WE'RE READY TO START!
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED

UNCLE DAVE WILL EXPLAIN. FORGIVE ME, MATT~ IT'S FOR THE BEST. GOOD-BYE ~~
GOOD-BYE? HEY~!
11-15

I CAN'T MARRY YOU. I HOPE YOU'LL ALWAYS BE HAPPY~GOOD-BYE, MATT. PLEASE DON'T FOLLOW ME!
DIANA, WAIT!

DAVE ~ WHAT HAPPENED?
DIANA CHANGED HER MIND.
COPR 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.

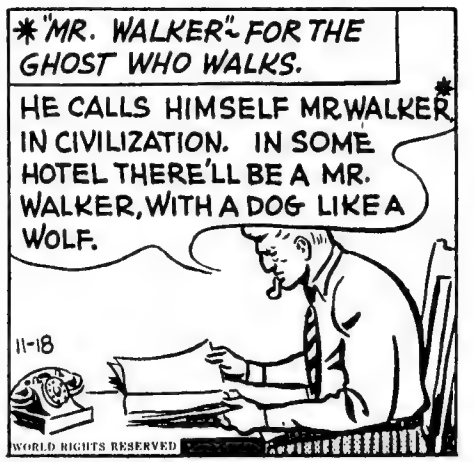
BUT~SHE CAN'T RUN AWAY NOW! WITH THE WEDDING ABOUT TO BEGIN!
I'M AFRAID SHE CAN~ AND HAS!
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED

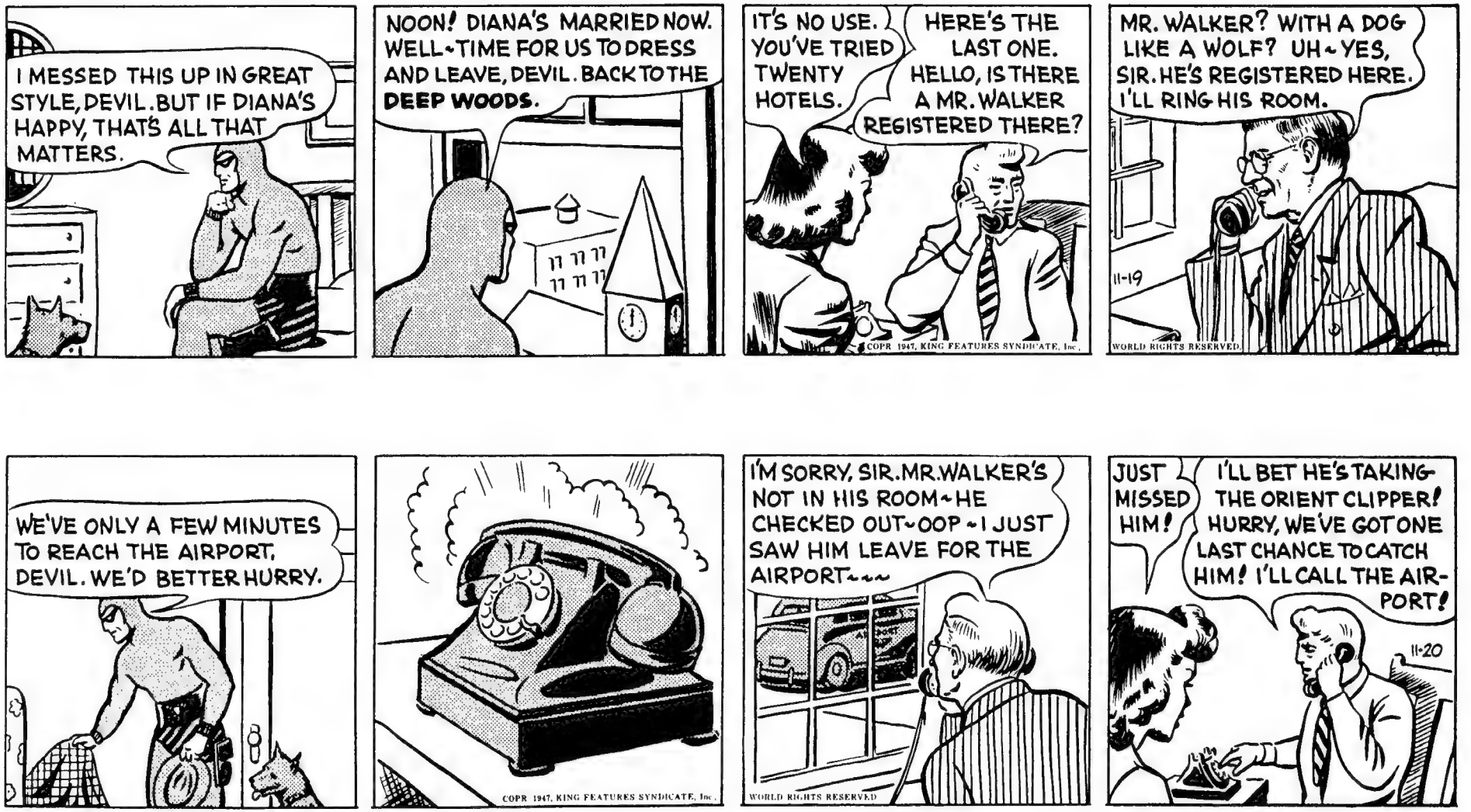
11-17

LEAVING THE RICHEST MAN IN THE WORLD AT THE ALTAR!
LOVE AND ECONOMICS DON'T ALWAYS MIX, LILY.

THE TERRIBLE THINGS I SAID TO HIM~I MUST FIND HIM, IF I HAVE TO CRAWL AROUND THE WORLD ON MY KNEES.

DIANA~ WE'LL FIND HIM.
HOW? WHERE? IT'S LIKE TRYING TO FIND A WILL-O'-THE-WISP OR THE END OF THE RAINBOW.
COPR. 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.


*"MR. WALKER"~FOR THE GHOST WHO WALKS.
HE CALLS HIMSELF MR.WALKER* IN CIVILIZATION. IN SOME HOTEL THERE'LL BE A MR. WALKER, WITH A DOG LIKE A WOLF.
11-18
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED


I MESSED THIS UP IN GREAT STYLE, DEVIL. BUT IF DIANA'S HAPPY, THAT'S ALL THAT MATTERS.
NOON! DIANA'S MARRIED NOW. WELL~TIME FOR US TO DRESS AND LEAVE, DEVIL. BACK TO THE DEEP WOODS.
IT'S NO USE. YOU'VE TRIED TWENTY HOTELS.
HERE'S THE LAST ONE. HELLO, IS THERE A MR. WALKER REGISTERED THERE?
COPR 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.
MR. WALKER? WITH A DOG LIKE A WOLF? UH~YES, SIR. HE'S REGISTERED HERE. I'LL RING HIS ROOM.
11-19
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED.
WE'VE ONLY A FEW MINUTES TO REACH THE AIRPORT, DEVIL. WE'D BETTER HURRY.
COPR 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.
I'M SORRY, SIR. MR. WALKER'S NOT IN HIS ROOM~HE CHECKED OUT~OOP~I JUST SAW HIM LEAVE FOR THE AIRPORT~~~
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED
JUST MISSED HIM!
I'LL BET HE'S TAKING THE ORIENT CLIPPER! HURRY, WE'VE GOT ONE LAST CHANCE TO CATCH HIM! I'LL CALL THE AIRPORT!
11-20

MESSAGE FOR MR. WALKER.
MUST BE ANOTHER "MR. WALKER", NOBODY KNOWS I'M HERE

FASTER, UNCLE DAVE! FASTER!
AIRPORT'S RIGHT AROUND THE NEXT TURN! HE MUST HAVE RECEIVED OUR MESSAGE!
COPR 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.

I CAN SEE HIM~AND DEVIL~ GOING INTO THE PLANE. THEY'RE STARTING.
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED

DARLING~ DARLING~ WAIT~~!
11-21

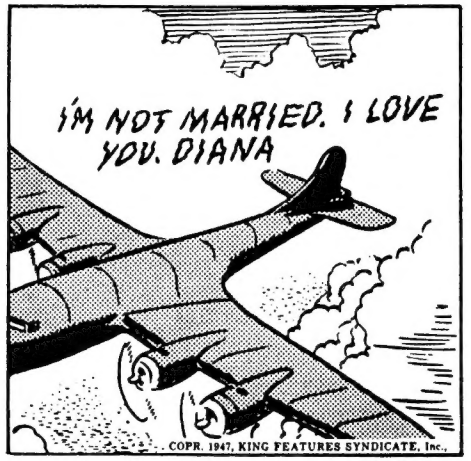
HE DIDN'T SEE ME~SO NEAR~YET SO FAR~~
11-22

LUCK'S AGAINST ME. I'M BEING PUNISHED~FOR WHAT I DID~~
NONSENSE~ WE JUST HAD A TOUGH BREAK~WE'LL REACH HIM BY RADIO~~
COPR 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.

DIANA'LL BE STARTING HER HONEYMOON NOW~~
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED

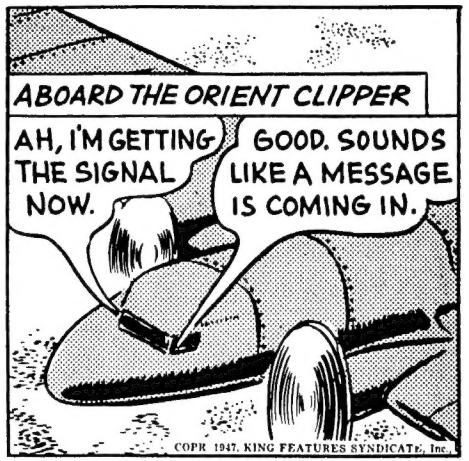
WE WANT TO SEND A RADIO MESSAGE TO THE CLIPPER THAT JUST TOOK OFF.
SORRY, SIR. WE'RE NOT PERMITTED TO TRANSMIT PERSONAL MESSAGES.
PLANE TICKETS

BUT MOST COMPANIES PERMIT RADIO MESSAGES TO BE SENT
NOT US. EMERGENCY MESSAGES ONLY.
PLANE TICKETS
THIS IS DEFINITELY AN EMERGENCY. PLEASE SEND THIS TO MISTER WALKER ON THE ORIENT CLIPPER.
Darling, I'm not married. I love you. Diana
11-24
COPR. 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.,
BUT~THIS ISN'T AN EMERGENCY
IT IS TOO! IT'S A QUESTION OF LIFE OR DEATH!
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED
"I'M NOT MARRIED. I LOVE YOU. DIANA." HMM, I'LL HAVE TO GET AN O.K. TO RADIO THIS, FROM MY BOSS.
WAIT A MINUTE~~
I'LL CHECK THAT.
MANAGER
2ND VICE PRES.
I'LL SEE
BETTER CLEAR THAT UPSTAIRS
1ST VICE PRES
PRESIDENT
COPR. 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.,
SHE WANTS TO RADIO THAT TO A PASSENGER ON THE CLIPPER? I'LL GIVE MY PERSONAL O.K.! DEFINITELY AN EMERGENCY!
11-25
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED


I'M NOT MARRIED. I LOVE YOU. DIANA
COPR. 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.

MEANWHILE, ABOARD THE CLIPPER~
OUR RECEIVER'S ON THE FRITZ. I'M NOT GETTING THE SIGNAL.
SEE IF YOU CAN FIX IT.
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED

I'M SORRY, MISS PALMER. WE CAN'T CONTACT THE PLANE.
ISN'T THIS MADDENING!? HE THINKS I'M MARRIED BY NOW! KEEP TRYING, PLEASE!
11-26
PLANE TICKETS

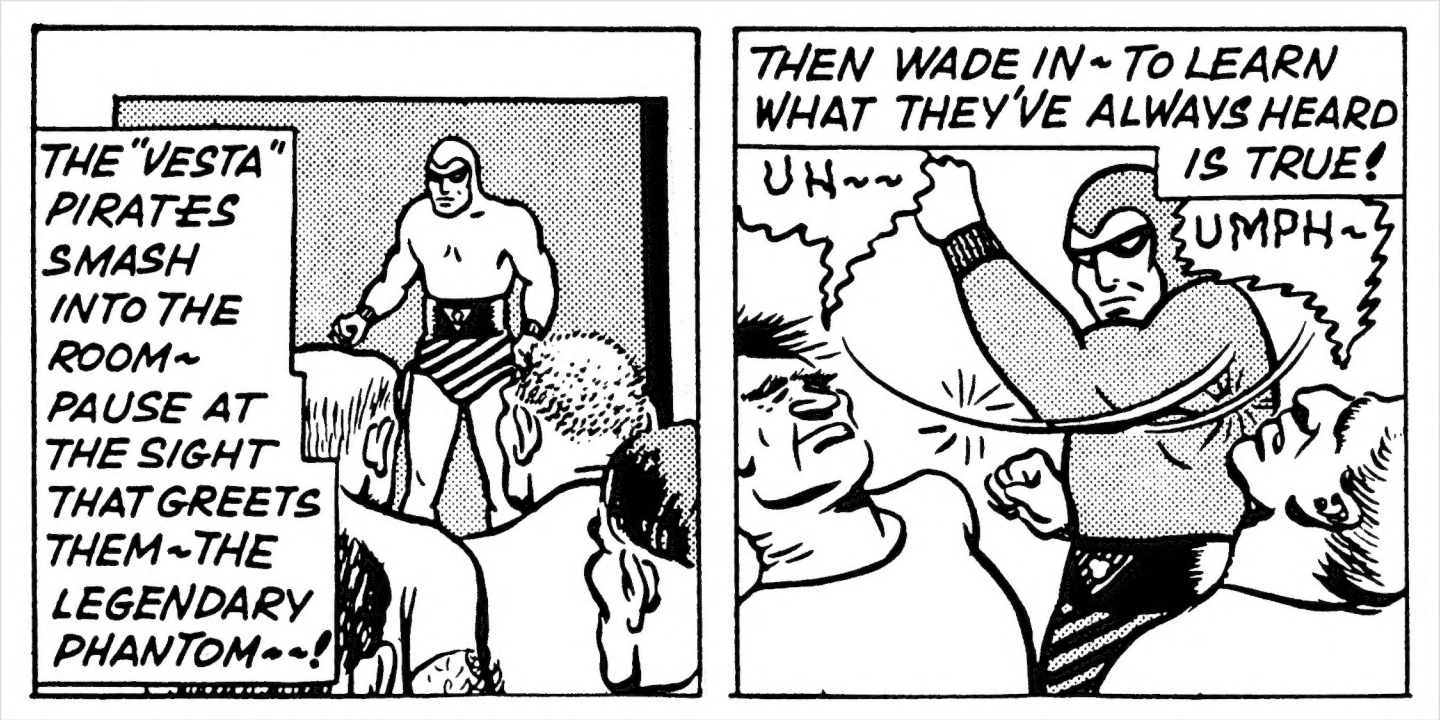

ABOARD THE ORIENT CLIPPER
AH, I'M GETTING THE SIGNAL NOW.
GOOD. SOUNDS LIKE A MESSAGE IS COMING IN.
COPR. 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.

"MISTER WALKER"~ FOR THE GHOST WHO WALKS.
RADIO MESSAGE FOR MISTER WALKER.
THAT MUST BE~ME~~
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED

I'M NOT MARRIED. I LOVE YOU. DIANA

I WANT TO GET OFF RIGHT NOW!
BUT, SIR, WE'RE OVER THE MIDDLE OF THE OCEAN!
11-27

I'VE GOT TO GET OFF THIS PLANE. GIVE ME A PARACHUTE!
SIR, OUR NEXT STOP IS BENGALI. WE'RE OVER MID-OCEAN. PLEASE SIT DOWN-~AND-ER~REST.
SHE LOVES ME, DEVIL! SHE'S NOT MARRIED!
SMACK
COPR 1947 KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.,
THE ORIENT CLIPPER LANDS AT MORRISTOWN ON THE BENGALI COAST~~
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED
SIR, WAIT UNTIL THE PLANE STOPS!
CAN'T! GOT TO MAKE A PHONE CALL!
11-28
I WANT TO MAKE A RADIO-TELEPHONE CALL TO AMERICA. MISS DIANA PALMER. THE NUMBER IS~~
COPR 1947, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE Inc.
DIANA! A PHONE CALL ~FROM BENGALI! GUESS WHO!
GIVE ME THAT TELEPHONE!
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED
DIANA, I GOT YOUR MESSAGE~I'LL BE BACK~
DARLING ~I COULDN'T MARRY HIM~ ~!~~
I LOVE YOU~~ SMACK-SMACK
I LOVE YOU TOO~~~ HURRY BACK~~ SMACK-SMACK~~~
?
11-29



the PHANTOM®

Returns with Volume Eight: 1947-1949